



PLEDGE OVER SCHOOL AXE

Report by Clare Butler

DUDLEY Council has agreed to the closure of The Coseley School by August 2017 – citing the decision as ‘in the interests of pupils’.

It comes as bosses vow to open a new establishment on the site by 2020 – with ‘cutting edge education’ at the forefront.

The Henne Drive school will now undergo a phased closure over the next 12 months.

More than 250 people responded to a consultation period over the closure which ran from January to April.

Eighty four per cent did not support the closure despite the low pupil numbers, poor exam results and financial difficulties.

Speaking at the cabinet meeting last Thursday night, Councillor Ian Cooper, head of children’s services, said: “This decision is about putting the needs of pupils first.

“We simply cannot allow this school to slip further down in terms of pupil numbers and the financial difficulties it is in.

“We have looked long and hard at this issue, but we have to do the right thing for everyone at The Coseley School,” he added.

“There are only 398 pupils now on the roll, including 138 Year 11 pupils who will leave at the end of this term. This means there are only 287 pupils still on the roll for September, of which all but 179 have already applied for places at an alternative school.

Gutted

“Of these, 91 are current Year 10 pupils, who will stay at the school to finish exam courses, with approximately 30 in each of the other years. This is simply not sustainable,” Councillor Cooper stressed.

Thousands of angry parents have battled to save the school, with a petition gathering more than 2,000 signatures in recent months.

Enraged parent Michaela Garbett, from Rossville, said she was gutted by the decision.

She explained: “It is incredibly disappointing. None of our ward councillors were even at the meeting and we felt like it was just a done deal that was over with too quickly.

“If they wanted to phase a closure then this should have happened 18 months ago as it would not have affected them so badly or the other schools then. We feel like this has been a decision made for some time.

“All we can do now is continue to support Coseley and the plans for a possible new school in 2020. But I’m gutted.”

The school is currently judged by Ofsted as ‘requiring improvement’.

Last year pupils achieved 31 per cent five A*-C GCSEs including English and maths placing it in the bottom 10 per cent of schools in the country.

Leisure facilities on the site are expected to remain open to the public following the closure.

SKYE THE TARGET IN CLUB’S FUNDRAISING GOAL



Olly Thomas and Zak Hall, Harry Warren, Sienna McSwiggan, Eashan Patel and Shae McSwiggan, Taylor-James Warren, Syke and Carl Bottley

A JUNIOR football team scored with a fundraising effort for a little girl with a rare brain disease.

Netherton Colts raised £1,200 for Syke-Summer Warren, from Halesowen, who is currently in and out of hospital undergoing treatment.

The money was raised at three presentation evenings at the club which saw sports memorabilia auctioned off and raffles held.

After hearing about the three-year-old’s condition from a friend, Colts club treasurer Carl Bottley, said he wanted to do something

to help. He said: “I saw Syke’s fundraising campaign on Facebook and decided to get in touch.

“I met up with her mom and dad and spoke to them and they are such a lovely family I just knew I wanted to do something to help them out.

“At Netherton Colts we have been putting on charity events for around 16 years now, so we had three football presentation nights and all the lads had trophies for taking part.

“Raffles and prizes were also on offer. We had more than 300 people on every night.

“Syke’s parents Melanie and Harry both came along to the nights and were so grateful for our support. The money is for them to do whatever they can to give Syke the best quality of life.”

Syke was diagnosed with Anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis, a rare brain disease. She will need ongoing hospital care for the rest of her life.

The fundraising campaign aims to buy specialised equipment and make any adaptation’s that are needed to help her along the way.

SAFETY

Speed reduction bid for road near college

COUNCILLORS look set to approve plans for speed bumps and a 20mph limit on a busy road outside a Dudley school.

The limit in St James’s Road by Castle High School and Visual Arts College, which has around 1,000 students, will be cut by 10mph as part of the £15,000 scheme.

Humps will be installed at five locations along a stretch of the road, which is also home to two private day nurseries.

Some residents had objected to humps outside their homes but Dudley Council has been recommended to approve the safety measures next week.

HOUSING

Homes scheme at former primary site

A FORMER Halesowen school that has remained empty for almost 10 years is being sold for housing. Holt Farm Primary has been subject to vandalism, flytipping and an arson attack in 2014.

The site was on the market for £1.35m and could house about 20 or 30 properties. Halesowen North councillor Karen Shakespeare said a sale had been agreed and legal arrangements going through.

She said: “This is incredibly positive news.”

BEHAVIOUR

Car park banning order curbs antics

A COUNCILLOR says the introduction of a banning order has led to improvements at a car park plagued by anti-social behaviour.

Windows were smashed and walls daubed with graffiti at the Ryemarket shopping centre car park in Stourbridge.

The order was introduced in January and has since stopped under 18s from entering the car park unless driving or accompanied by a responsible adult.

Councillor Nic Barlow said: “From speaking with people it looks like it is working well – which is a really positive thing for the town.”

INSIDE:

WEIGHT LOSS TO FASHION LINE



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83-year-old robbed by evil trickster



A CCTV image of the suspect

AN 83-year-old woman was pinned down and robbed in her Dudley home by a man who had offered to help find her cat.

She had been out looking for her missing pet when she met the man at Herald Court, off Priory Street, who offered to help her search.

After looking for the lost pet he went to her home nearby for a drink. But he returned at around 10.30pm and stole bank cards and cash before throwing her to the floor, pinning her down and threatening the victim. She managed to pull a pendant alarm and he fled.

But detectives believe the trickster returned a short time later and banged on the door, claiming to be the police. He walked away when she did not answer.

The man first encountered the woman at around 6pm on May 12, and attacked her at around 10.30pm.

Detectives released a CCTV image of the man suspected of the crime.

Detective Constable Gareth Homer said: "This is a horrific attack on an elderly woman in her own home, by someone who posed as a friend and offered a helping hand."

"We are determined to find the man

responsible and are eager to hear from anyone who thinks they may know the identity of the suspect."

Police spokeswoman Hannah Fitzgerald said: "She was thrown to the floor when the man was in her house. The lady was thankfully not injured but she suffered mild bruising and was shaken up."

Contact DC Homer by calling 101 or emailing contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk.

Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The pet cat was later found.

Teenage driver admits to causing death crash

A TIPTON teenager has admitted killing a telecoms engineer after driving into him while speeding at the wheel of his mother's car.

Matthew Harding, aged 27, was working at the roadside in a Coseley street when he was struck by the Citroen Picasso.

The 17-year-old boy, who cannot be named because of his age, had been distracted as he was trying to turn on the windscreen wipers in the car and then swerved to avoid a parked car, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The vehicle careered into two Virgin Media technicians, Mr Harding and his colleague Jermaine Buchanan, at the corner of Jack Holden Avenue, Woodcross.

The court heard the youth had been driving at 47mph in the residential area and had smoked cannabis the night before.

Mr Harding, a father from Oldbury, had only got married a week before he was killed on July 20 last year. He died the following day in hospital while Mr Buchanan suffered a broken arm and jaw, and a twisted ankle. He has since made a full recovery.

Mr Harding's widow Danielle was in court to see the teenager - who was 16 at the time of the crash - plead guilty to causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury by dangerous driving. He will be sentenced on June 27.

The court was told how the teenager 'panicked' after seeing the parked car and turned sharply towards the kerb where the two men were working.

Reading the youth's basis of plea to the court, barrister Cathlyn Orchard said: "I did not know how to drive any car and should not have been driving."

"I had smoked cannabis the night before but do not feel it affected my driving. It was raining and I went to turn on the windscreen wipers but did not know where they were."

Another boy, also aged 17, from Bilston, has pleaded not guilty to aggravated vehicle taking and is to stand trial.

Tears shed as barber cuts and runs



Retiring barber Mick Booth has retired from his salon in Lye High Street after 44 years

A POPULAR barber has cut short his career, calling time on his business after 44 years.

Mick Booth, of Wordsley, set up the business in Lye High Street after previously working for other people. He decided, along with his wife and business co-owner Carol, to close the shop after its lease came to an end.

Mick, aged 65, has cut the hair of thousands of people over the years, making legions of friends and many of them popped in to wish him well in the future before he shut up

shop. In the past, he has bumped into clients in Florida and Kenya and a few big burly blokes couldn't help but shed a tear as he finally finished.

"It's strange, it hasn't really sunk in yet," he said. "It's mixed emotions, it doesn't feel like I've finished forever."

"It's been my life for all these years. There have been lots of changes to Lye over the years and I've managed to survive them."

"Many of my customers have become good friends, it's amazing

the way they stand by you." Mick added: "I've always been a barber, I did my apprenticeship when I finished school and worked in a couple of salons before starting up on my own."

"It's extremely sad, it's the end of an era, but I've taken a lot away from it. It's been an experience."

"I think the secret is that no matter who comes through the door, you treat them exactly the same. And if they want a style you don't necessarily like, you give the customer what they want."

Youngsters can show off wares at Glass Cone

YOUNG traders and buskers will have the chance to showcase their products at the historic Red House Glass Cone next month.

The Teenage Market is a nationwide initiative set up by brothers Joe and Tom Barratt in Stockport as a way of supporting young people and transforming town centres.

Dudley held its first ever Teenage Market in October 2015 with more than 30 stalls and a range of performers taking over Stone Street Square for the day.

The event will now move to the Red House Glass Cone on July 2 and 3.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "The Teenage Market was a huge hit when it came to Dudley and I think that the Red House Glass Cone is an ideal venue for this innovative project."

"The cone is already a hub for creative industries and has hosted a range of markets and music events over the years."

"The Teenage Market is a great opportunity for young people to get their businesses off the ground and showcase their creative talents and develop self-confidence and their inter-personal skills."

The event runs from 10am to 4pm on both days.

To apply to be a trader or performer visit www.theteenagemarket.co.uk

Find out more at The Teenage Market on Facebook or follow on Twitter @teenage_market

Choir chosen to sing at festival

YOUNG singers from the Black Country have been chosen to perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall in July.

Stourbridge's Got 2 Sing youth choir will take to the stage as part of the Music for Youth National Festival, from July 5 to 9.

It will involve around 40,000 young musicians from across the country. The choir, comprising 24 members aged from nine to 16, will perform on July 6.

Members will be singing Wings by Birdy, I See The Light from Tangled the movie and Adele's Rolling In The Deep. They will also be participating in several vocal workshops. For tickets and more information see www.thsh.co.uk

The choir will perform at Mary Stevens Hospice on June 12 to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

Quartet performs for jazz session

THE Patsy Gamble Quartet will be the next band to perform in the latest Jazz at the Bonded Warehouse season in Stourbridge.

The concert is on Friday, June 10, at 7.30pm with tickets on the door at the Canal Street venue costing £8

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Campaign to spot signs of child sex exploitation

PEOPLE across the West Midlands can play their part in helping to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) by knowing how to spot the warning signs, a new campaign suggests.

Councils in the region and West Midlands Police have joined forces to raise awareness of CSE.

The campaign website www.seeme-hearme.org.uk has information about CSE and how to spot the warning signs, along with help and advice for young people, parents and carers, professionals and schools.

Councillor Ian Cooper, Dudley Council cabinet member for children's services, said: "With the lighter evenings, more of us, including groups of young people, are out and about later at night, so we want everyone to make themselves aware of the signs of CSE and know how they can report any concerns. Preventing CSE is everyone's responsibility and we all need to increase our awareness of it.

"I would urge people to visit our campaign website to find out more and see what they can do to help protect our children and young people.

"By being vigilant and knowing the warning signs, we can all help to tackle this abuse and keep our children safe."

Anyone concerned about the safety of a young person should call West Midlands Police on 101, speak in confidence to Barnardo's on 0121 3595333 or in an emergency call 999.

Childline have counsellors available at www.childline.org.uk while for more on child sexual exploitation visit www.seeme-hearme.org.uk

Top marks for exam students

NINE students from Halesowen College have achieved a 100 per cent exam success rate on their first year veterinary nurse course.

Nicole Cash, Kendra Doherty, Leah Fletcher, Bethany Golding, Renee Hopwood, Philippa Morgan, Danielle Turner, Rebecca Shaw and Evelina Latakaita have all passed with flying colours.

The exam paper has a mixture of welfare, anatomy and physiology questions.

In 2015 the paper had a national success rate of 57 per cent.

Lecturer Julie Fellows said: "Our students are striving for excellence and working in local practices - congratulations to everyone."

Bus goes through fence into garden

A BUS ended up in a front garden after smashing through a fence in Wordsley. The Diamond bus came to rest in the garden in Balmoral Road at around noon last Wednesday.

No one was hurt.

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Medical practice is rated 'outstanding'



Eve Hill Medical Practice in Dudley

A GPs' surgery in Dudley has been rated as 'outstanding' following an inspection.

Eve Hill Medical Practice, on Himley Road, received the rating following an inspection by the Care Quality Commission in March.

Inspectors said staff at the centre treated patients with 'kindness and respect' and had the 'skills, knowledge and experience' to deliver 'effective care and treatment.' Care and leadership were all rated as outstanding, while safety and responses to people's needs were rated as good.

Dr David Shukla, a GP and partner, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the results of this inspection, which are a reflection of the dedication and hard work of our fantastic team.

Positive

"We have always tried to provide the best possible services for our patients and it is wonderful to receive such positive feedback."

Janet Williamson, deputy chief inspector of general practice and dentistry at the CQC's central region,

said: "It is clear that Eve Hill Medical Practice is providing an effective, responsive and well-led service, which is a real asset to the people living in this part of Dudley.

"Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment. The practice used innovative and pro-active methods to improve patient outcomes and worked with other local providers to share best practice. We observed a strong patient-centred culture and we saw that staff treated patients with kindness and respect."

Marriage numbers in region drop by 10pc

THE number of people getting married in the Black Country and Staffordshire fell by around 10 per cent in 12 months, latest figures reveal.

A total of 7,296 couples tied the knot in religious or civil ceremonies, data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows.

The number of marriages in 2013, the latest statistics to be published, fell from 8,140 in 2012 - a reduction of 10.3 per cent.

But the region mirrored the national picture which also saw a drop and it's believed people could have been avoiding the number '13' fearing it an unlucky year to get married. Financial reasons with Britain still recovering after the recession may also have had an impact.

Dudley saw the biggest drop in the number of marriages with 22 per cent. Some 893 couples tied the knot in 2013 compared with 1,155 during the previous year.

But Councillor John Martin, cabinet member for law and governance, said numbers getting hitched at register offices and other approved venues had increased since then.

Superstition

"Marriages continue to be popular in Dudley borough and the number of people choosing to tie the knot has grown over the past two years," he said.

"We have a range of venues for people to get married including Priory Hall, Himley Hall and the brand new Thomas Robinson building. There was a drop in numbers in 2013 which may have had something to do with superstition or even financial reasons during economic uncertainty at the time," he added.

In Sandwell there was a 12 per cent drop in the number of ceremonies with 672 in 2013, down from 770. In Wolverhampton, there was a seven per cent fall with 789 couples getting wed in 2012 compared with 733 in 2013 and in Walsall the number fell by around six per cent from 720 to 675. In Staffordshire, the number dropped by 10 per cent from 4,806 to 4,312.

Nationally, there were 240,854 marriages in England and Wales, a drop of 8.6 per cent compared with 2012 and the first fall since 2009.

Elizabeth McLaren, from the ONS, said: "The fall could indicate the continuation of the long-term decline in marriages since 1972 or could be due to couples choosing to postpone their marriage to avoid the number 13 which is perceived as unlucky by many cultures."

Escape for drivers as cars overturn



The vehicle that flipped over in Sedgley. Picture: @bilstonfire



The car on its roof in Bagley Road, Stourbridge. Picture: @stourbridgefire

A MAN was taken to hospital after his car landed on its roof following a crash in Sedgley.

The Renault Megane hit a parked vehicle and flipped over, coming to rest on the pavement in Lime Road in the early hours of Saturday morning. He suffered arm and shoulder injuries. Fire Crews from Bilston and Dudley attended.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman said: "The occupier managed to self-extricate himself. He was out of the car before we arrived. "The police requested that the car was left in situ."

Brigg Ford of West Midlands Police said: "We were called by ambulance crews to an incident where a car had rolled over at around 4.20am.

"The vehicle was on its roof. The driver suffered a nasty gash to his arm, but it wasn't a life-threatening or life-changing injury. He was taken to hospital."

Meanwhile, a young driver was lucky to escape with minor injuries after flipping his car on a winding road in Stourbridge on Friday night.

The 20-year-old hurt his shoulder in the incident in Bagley Road just after 9pm. No other vehicles were involved.

Mr Ford said: "The car was blocking the road. But the road was quickly closed off. The road was closed but reopened after a short time. The 20-year-old male driver suffered an injured shoulder."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russells Hall trust is one of the best

THE NHS trust that runs Russells Hall Hospital has been named as one of the best in the UK.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust picked up a CHKS Top Hospital Award 2016 at the ceremony in London. The trust was shortlisted in the categories of 'Excellence in Delivering 24-7 Emergency Care Award' and 'Data Quality Award' at the annual event. Paul Bytheway, chief operating officer, said: "We are thrilled to be recognised as one of the best performing trusts in the UK and this award is a testament to our dedicated staff."

Museum lands top industry award

THE Black Country Living Museum has won an award at an industry ceremony.

The venue, in Tipton Road, Dudley won the trading and enterprise award at the Museums and Heritage Awards for Excellence.

Andrew Lovett, the museum's director and chief executive, said: "We are absolutely delighted to win such a prestigious award.

"Our events programme and filming location hire have been examples of how it is possible to use our unique space in positive and creative ways."

£5,500 raised at dragon boat race

SHOP staff raised more than £5,000 for Dudley-based White House Cancer Support (WHCS) at this year's dragon boat race at Himley Hall.

A team from Midcounties Co-operative stores in Tipton, Sedgley, Tivdale and Kingswinford competed in various heats of 350 yards across the Great Pool. Their efforts generated £5,500.

Charity manager Caroline Webb said: "It is an amazing amount and we are absolutely over the moon."

Nurse presented with a national accolade

A DUDLEY nurse who helps patients with learning disabilities has won a top national award.

Jacqui Howells, learning disabilities liaison nurse for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, was handed the good nurse accolade at the Great British Care Awards.

"Receiving a national award means so much to me but the fact that my patients nominated me and think that I am a good nurse makes it even more special," she said.

Birthday tea and movie

THE movie The Queen starring Helen Mirren is being shown as part of a Royal celebration in Halesowen.

Halesowen Library at the Cornbow Centre is hosting an afternoon tea to mark the monarch's 90th birthday on Wednesday, June 8, at 2pm.

Tickets are £7 on 01384 812980.

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AS another Chelsea Flower Show slips into history, I reflect once again on the endless joys of gardening and how profoundly grateful I am that people find time to do it. Other people.

SUCH is the march of the mobile phone that many landline phones barely ring from one day to the next. In fact, this week comes a new landmark; it is now reckoned that half of all landline calls are nuisance calls. I took one only the other day. A call-centre lady, speaking in a strong Indian accent began, in all seriousness: "Hello. My name is Cherie Johnson." I informed her that my name was Father Christmas. We hung up at the same moment.

WHEN will they ever learn? In the 2001 Census, nearly 400,000 Brits declared their religion as "Jedi knight." In this year's competition to find a name for the UK's new research vessel, more than 100,000 voted for "Boaty McBoatface." You might imagine that by now the authorities would have realised you can no longer ask the Great British Public a sensible question and get a sensible answer. We are now told that the 2021 Census may include a question on our sexuality and gender. Let me be the first to out myself as Neutral McNewface.

AS is so often the case, life imitates Brian. There is a scene in Monty Python's Life of Brian when a bunch of soothsayers are vying for the attention of passers-by with their prophecies. One unusually



precise soothsayer, speaking in a strong Ulster accent, declares that: "For the demon shall bear a nine-bladed sword. Nine-bladed! Not two or five or seven, but nine." I am reminded of him as the Remain lobby assure us with great precision that if we leave the EU the average cost of a family's shopping will rise by exactly £220 while GDP will drop by precisely 3.6 per cent and 820,000 jobs – not 800,000 or 850,000 – will be lost. Coming soon: the Brexit plague of 1,999,997 locusts.

THE university of East Anglia has advised students not to throw their mortar boards into the air at their graduation ceremonies but to choose the "safer" option of miming the throw and having images of mortar boards digitally added to the photos. How many students have been slain by falling mortar boards is not disclosed. If the traditional graduate headgear is so dangerous, perhaps students should throw something else into the air, something light that all students possess and will cause no injury. Unpaid electricity bills, overdraw refusals, county-court judgments and so on.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Open day for hospital volunteers

PEOPLE interested in volunteering at hospitals in Dudley are invited to an open day next week. There are already more than 400 helpers on the books at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust. But staff are keen to attract more people to join the team, which works at Russells Hall and Guest hospitals in Dudley and the Corbett in Stourbridge. The volunteer open day will

be hosted on Monday (June 6) by chief executive Paula Clark and chief nurse Dawn Wardell at 10am in the Lecture Theatre at Russells Hall Hospital. Visitors will also be to talk some of the hospital trust's existing volunteers and hear from members of staff about the contributions the team makes. From providing hot drinks and

helping out at meal times, to making sure patients can find their way to appointments, volunteers help in a variety of ways across the three sites. They may also be called upon for ferrying patient files around departments and keeping medical supplies well-stocked. Most importantly they offer a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on when people need it the most.

Ms Clark said: "Anyone over the age of 16 who would like to make a difference in Dudley can apply to become a volunteer at the trust, whether they can spare a few hours a week around existing commitments or want to give their time more regularly, we'd love to hear from them." Book a place by calling 01384 456111 extension 1064 or emailing communications@dgh.nhs.uk

Quotas put wardens under pressure, claim

By Richard Guttridge

TRAFFIC wardens across Dudley are being put under pressure to fine more drivers because of an 'unfair' evaluation system, it has been claimed.

Wardens say they feel under pressure to catch out more drivers as they are compared on their performances. One warden said they had been told they must each issue an average of 4.7 tickets a day to meet budget projections. However, Dudley Council said it did not set such targets. Pie charts and other data showing how many tickets have been given out by each worker have been put up on notice boards and it is felt the system is heaping pressure on those giving out the fewest tickets. One warden, who did not want to be named, said: "We have been told we have got to achieve 4.7 tickets a day to pay our wages.

Spotlight

"When I started I was told my job was to keep the streets safe and clear but now we're being told if we're not issuing tickets we're not doing our jobs properly. "Then they start putting pie charts up and saying 'so and so did more, you have got to do better'. " He added: "It has taken away our discretion. If someone is a couple of minutes late outside the grace period, sometimes we will say don't do it again and give them a slap on the wrist. We can't do that now." Dudley Council said the evaluation system was in place to make sure standards remained high. Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are not allowed to set ticket targets for our parking enforcement staff, but like all council employees, we have an ongoing evaluation system in place for our staff. "This helps us to make sure they are continuing to provide a good service to the public in ensuring roads and restricted areas are free from obstructing vehicles to help traffic flow."

£100,000 raked in by parking fines



Clive Sowerby, of Sowerby shoe shop, in Lower High Street, Stourbridge, is campaigning for longer parking times

DUDLEY Council raked in almost £100,000 from parking fines in a 12-month period. Figures from a Freedom Of Information request show the authority made nearly £100,000 from handing out fines in the borough in the 2014/15 financial year. This was an increase by more than a third from 2013/14, when £59,718 was collected. Wolverhampton Street in Dudley saw the highest amount of fines issued in 2014/15, with 820 parking tickets earning the council £25,508.32. Dudley High Street came second, with 561 fines totalling £18,541, and Stourbridge High Street was third with 525 fines totalling £16,666. Other hot spots included Stone Street in Dudley with 534 fines raking in £16,525 and Pensnett High Street with 439 fines boosting council coffers by £15,562. Three streets remained in the top five worst affected areas from 2013/14 to 2014/15. In 2013/14 Stourbridge High Street had come top with 522 fines totalling £17,613. The authority revealed the highest earning pay and display car park in 2014/15 saw an income of £222,074.59 in 2014/15, down more than 50k from £274,219.08 in 2013/14. But the council would not reveal the location. Shopkeeper Clive Sowerby, of Sowerby shoe shop in Lower High Street, Stourbridge, who has campaigned for longer parking times said one hour stays were 'ludicrous'. Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Parking restrictions are there to keep the borough's roads moving and to make sure people are safe."

Sir Lenny to join cast of hit TV series Broadchurch

DUDLEY born actor and comedian Sir Lenny Henry is to join the cast of hit drama Broadchurch, it has been announced. He will appear in the third and final series of the award-winning ITV crime show, with shooting already under way. Details of the 57-year-old's role have not been revealed. David Tennant and Olivia Colman will reprise their roles as DI Alec Hardy and DS Ellie Miller, with Jodie Whittaker and Andrew Buchan returning to play Beth and Mark Latimer. Arthur Darvill returns as local vicar Paul Coates while Carolyn Pickles will be back as newspaper editor Maggie Radcliffe. The new series will herald a brand new case for Miller and Hardy, with the detectives reuniting to investigate a serious sexual assault. Creator Chris Chibnall said: "This is the final chapter of Broadchurch. We have one last story to tell, featuring both familiar faces and new characters. I hope it's a compelling and emotional farewell to a world and show that means so much to me."

The news of Sir Lenny's role in the ITV drama emerged as it was revealed he will also take part in a specially staged performance in Jamaica of Shakespeare's King Lear. The production – which is expected to be filmed for a TV documentary – will feature a cast of Jamaican and British actors. Sir Lenny visited the island last month with theatrical director Paulette Randall.

New homes sell fast at Lockside

ONLY a handful of homes remain unsold at housebuilder Taylor Wimpey's Lockside Walk development in Brierley Hill. Five of the plots are still available and the homes will all be ready to move into this summer. They are priced from £153,995 for two bedrooms to £279,995 for four. Anne Wallace, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, said it had proved a fast-selling development. The 80 homes are on the site of the old Lloyds works, off Brettell Lane, an engineering firm that made propellers during the Second World War before shifting production to chains and starter rings. The firm moved production to India 10 years ago and the factory was demolished.

Historian gives talk on medieval monarch

HISTORIAN Max Keen is giving a talk on King John in Brierley Hill later this month. The lecture takes place at Brierley Hill Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Hill Street, on June 30 from 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 from 01384 816440.

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



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Car crush death ruled an accident by coroner

A CORONER has ruled the death of a man who was crushed by a car when it collapsed on him at a storage yard in Cradley was an accident.

Emergency services were called to the industrial estate in James Scott Road at 5pm on May 19, but were unable to save the 64-year-old father, Michael Ashton, who was from The Parade, Dudley.

Black Country Coroners Court heard how Mr Ashton had been working on his silver Vauxhall Omega in a storage yard when his trolley jack had collapsed and he was crushed under the vehicle. He had been seen by a member of staff from neighbouring company MEK Commercials repairing the car just after 1pm.

A statement read out by the coroner, from Richard Williams, said: "I could see Mick working under his car at around 1.10pm. At around 16.45pm I had gone back to fetch a HGV but he was underneath and I could see his legs were not moving."

"I ran up to him and called his name but could see that the vehicle was then on top of him."

"I called for help and we raised the jack and pulled him out onto the board he had been working on but could see he had already passed away."

The cause of death given was crushing to the chest due to being trapped under the car.

Senior coroner Zafar Siddique said: "It appears that the jack had collapsed and he was sadly crushed under the vehicle. I conclude that this was an accidental death from crushing injury."

Old empty pub is facing demolition

PLANS have been put forward to demolish an empty former public house in the Black Country.

Developers have put forward an application for the demolition of Ye Olde Saltbrook in Lye.

Dudley Council decided the pub, which is in a mainly industrial area, was 'not a community asset' after receiving the application. The premises has stood unused for some time.

It is not known yet what type of development will replace the pub after it is cleared, as a planning application for any new project will need to be proposed.

Ye Olde Saltbrook was sold for around £95,000 by leisure property specialists Fleurets on December 18 last year.

1920s figurine sold for £20k

A 1920s Art Deco figurine that is 37cm tall sold for £20,500 at Fieldings Auctioneers in Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge. The piece called Tender Promises is a painted bronze, ivory figure of two kneeling harlequins.

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Five years jail for buying stun gun



Stun gun disguised as a torch

A MAN'S 'fascination' with stun guns has put him behind bars for five years after he bought weapons disguised as torches.

The case prompted a Wolverhampton Crown Court judge to issue a public warning that this was the lowest sentence people could expect if found in possession of such a weapon.

Steven Morton bought three of the weapons through a Chinese website, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Each was disguised as a torch, complete with a working light.

The second batch, which contained

two stun gun 'torches', was intercepted at a Royal Mail sorting office in London on February 2, said Mr Peter McCartney, prosecuting.

They were being sent to the Wolverhampton home of the mother of 49-year-old Morton but he immediately admitted ordering the weapons when contacted by police. He also revealed that he had already received one from the same website.

Mr McCartney continued: "The defendant said that he had not known they were illegal. He said he was fascinated by them."

Mr Niall Skinner, defending, said: "His last conviction was 22 years ago. A lesson has been learnt about buying goods on the internet. He had no intention of committing any offence and has been entirely honest with police."

Morton, of Clifton Street, Sedgley, pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited weapon and purchasing prohibited weapons.

Recorder Simon Ward told him: "Stun guns are extremely dangerous pieces of equipment and that is why people who possess them go to prison for at least five years."

More than 100 parents in court over truancy

MORE than 100 parents in Dudley borough have been taken to court due to child truancy in the past year.

A Freedom of Information request revealed that 116 parents were taken to court by the authority from May last year until last month.

It comes after the Government introduced tougher measures to address truancy, including deducting the cost of unpaid penalty notices from Child Benefit.

But Stourbridge's Councillor Nicolas Barlow said more work needed to be done to address the causes behind the truancy.

He said: "Any number is not good, unless there is a legitimate reason for a child to be out of class and they have had permission to have authorised absence. But 116 is high and very worrying - it needs to be addressed by whatever means possible."

"Ultimately, it is a drain on resources with court costs coming into play."

"I think the main thing is that we now need to look at reasons behind this and the underlying factors why children don't want to go to school - whether it be due to the lessons structure or things like bullying."

Understanding

"If we could get the outline causes and then meet with pupils and guardians then maybe we could get a better understanding behind this."

By law all children of compulsory school age - between five and 16 - must receive a suitable full-time education. The law states if 'the parent knows that his/her child is failing to attend regularly at school without reasonable justification to cause him to do so, he/she is guilty of an offence'.

Upon conviction a fine up to £2,500 per parent per child can be issued - or up to three months' imprisonment.

The figures come after it was revealed in March that the number of children expelled from Dudley secondary schools has risen by 75 per cent over a three-year period.

Nearly half of the 89 students kicked out in 2014/15 were excluded because of persistent disruptive behaviour.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Prosecuting parents is always a last resort and follows a number of measures we have in place to remind parents of the importance of their children attending school and getting a good education."

Pupils draw on comics donation



Year 7 pupils Michael Evans, Ethan Quinn and Khaqan Ahmad with their comics

STUDENTS in Cradley Heath are diving into a world of fantasy heroes and time travel thanks to a donation from an international publishing giant.

Titan Comics, a new imprint from publisher Titan Books, heard about the work the academy had been doing with the National Literacy Trust through the school's marketing director Kris Griffin.

He said: "The next we know, a huge parcel arrived in reception

full of comics from across their ranges, it's an incredible gesture."

Head of English, David Jenks said: "We are extremely grateful to Titan. We encourage our students to read, read, read, it's about engagement and these comics do just that."

Ricky Claydon, marketing manager at Titan Comics said: "We publish a wide range of comic books that will have something for everyone."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pre-school praised for improvements

A PRE-SCHOOL in Dudley has made improvements over the past 12 months and has now been rated as 'good' by Ofsted.

Silverbells Pre-School had been told to improve following its last inspection. However, the education watchdog has now praised the pre-school at the Russells Hall Community Centre in Overfield Road.

Ofsted said 'good teaching' was helping children to progress in readiness for school. There was also praise for the manager who 'continues to drive improvements'.

Workshops centre on stone masonry

PEOPLE can learn all about stone masonry during a workshop at the Black Country Living Museum.

Tutor Mark Woolley will be teaching the basic techniques of carving and shaping stone on Saturday, June 11 at the Tipton Road venue.

Participants will be using hand tools to create simple architectural shapes and cut letters. They will also learn about the conservation, repair and restoration of natural stone buildings.

There is a fee for the course, which runs from 10am until 4pm. Places can be booked on 0121 520 8054.

Glass workshop event at centre

A BEGINNERS workshop in fused glass is being held at the Ruskin Glass Centre in Stourbridge on Saturday.

Glass designer and maker Paul Floyd will take afternoon sessions in the transparent glass studio at the centre in Wollaston Road from 2pm to 4.30pm on fusing and cutting glass. It costs £35 including materials. For more information or to book contact Mr Floyd on 01384 399412.

The centre has a number of other workshops in June and July.

Learn to make enamel jewellery at museum

ARTISTIC folk can learn how to make enamel jewellery during a course at the Black Country Living Museum.

Techniques will include sifting, stencils and wire work. Items produced could include small panels, pendants, brooches, cuff links, buttons or key rings or mini art works.

It will run at the Tipton Road attraction from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, June 18.

Places need to be booked by calling 0121 520 8054.

G&S theme for choir

HALESOWEN Choral Society will be performing a concert that celebrates The Magic of Gilbert & Sullivan on July 2. Tickets for the concert at Hasbury Methodist Church in Albert Road, Halesowen, cost £6.

To book call 0121 550 7206 or email tickets@halesowenchoralsociety.org

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Warden's moan just ticket for hypocrisy

YOU know that parking enforcement is going too far when even the traffic wardens are complaining about it.

After years of platitudes about "keeping the traffic moving" and "keeping the public safe", a disgruntled warden in Dudley has revealed they are being told to issue an average of 4.7 tickets each a day to meet budget targets.

I would love to say that comes as a surprise, but really it is right up there with the revelation that Big Daddy used to like his grub.

It has long been my belief that the vast majority of parking tickets are nothing to do with either road safety or the free flow of traffic.

They are simply councils fining people for minor breaches of rules that they dreamt up themselves.

And ticketing targets for traffic wardens are the price we pay for the dreadful decision to take parking enforcement away from the police and to hand it over to local authorities.

Well here's an idea. Let's get rid of all civil parking wardens, the whole lot of them, and use the money to take on a few extra police. It might only be a handful of extra officers, but I'm sure they will come in handy.

And in return? Well, leave it to the police to deal with the small number of instances where there is a real issue of public safety or obstruction.

That will, of course, mean there is nobody to enforce the majority of parking offences, the ones that are nothing to do with public safety but simply people parking in places the council does not approve of. Never mind, I'm sure life will go on.

FANTASTIC story about burglary victim Yannick Read, who responded to the theft of his £1,000 racing bike by coming up with what surely must be the ultimate anti-theft device.

His gadget not only features a 150-decibel siren, but also a shotgun-style cartridge packed with gunpowder. This means the bike really does go up in smoke if some light-fingered little low-life tries to half-inch it. What's not to like?

What I don't understand, though, is why anyone would spend £1,000 on a bike. Maybe I'm sounding like the dad off the Yellow Pages advert.

DR HENRY Heimlich, who invented the lifesaving Heimlich manoeuvre in 1974, used his own technique for the first time last week.

The 96-year-old performed the procedure on a fellow resident of a care home in Cincinnati.

In the US alone, the manoeuvre is credited with saving 100,000 lives. Oh, and David Walliams used it when Simon Cowell choked on a mint. Swings and roundabouts, I guess.



Under cover: the remains of the Dornier bomber



Conservation centre manager Daren Priday looks inside the plane



Taking shape – a propeller from the Dornier Do 17

New chapter written for the 'Flying Pencil'

SOPHIE MADDEN reports on the restoration of the last surviving Second World War 2 German bomber of its type

AT first glance it looks like an unremarkable warehouse, with lighting strips shining down from the roof to show racks of shelving and cargo covered by dark green tarpaulin.

But underneath the covers lies a piece of Second World War military history.

The remains of the last Dornier Do 17 bomber lie sheltered from the elements as part of a project to conserve them for future generations.

The Germans built 1,500 of the bombers. The one now sitting in the Conservation Centre at RAF Museum Cosford was raised from the bottom of the Strait of Dover in the English Channel almost three years ago.

The Dornier and its many small components were sprayed with a citric acid solution for months in order to clear them of debris from their time under the water. There still remains more work to be done before the plane can go on permanent display.

Materials

On completion, the plane's permanent display will be the first time it has been seen since November, where it was the centre-piece of the museum's Conservation Centre Open Day.

Darren Priday, RAF Museum conservation centre manager, said they were waiting on confirmation from project adviser, Professor Mary Ryan from the Imperial College London, on how best to treat the metal before the aircraft goes on display to the public.

He said: "It is now in the hands of the museum's design and interpretation team to decide how the aircraft should be displayed and what supporting materials should be included in order to tell the story."

The Dornier's twin-engine, twin-fin configuration, together with the narrow fuselage and shoulder-mounted engines, gave the aircraft a distinctive silhouette and earned it the nick-



Workers at RAF Cosford Museum reapplying the cover to protect the aircraft

name 'The Flying Pencil'. More than 400 were employed by the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain in the Second World War.

At the time of the Dornier's recovery, it was unclear just how much of the aircraft could be saved following more than 70 years on the seabed. The process so far has seen the aircraft systematically sprayed – inside purpose-built hydration tunnels – with a low concentration citric acid-based solution.

Confident that the citric acid solution has done its job, the fuselage was removed from the tunnels in early September 2014 and has undergone an intense wash down, before being moved into the Conservation Centre. Techni-

cians then began working on the Dornier full time, cleaning and scraping and removing deposits by hand.

The gradual process of removing the thick layer of marine deposits revealed several bullet holes and shrapnel damage on the airframe, plus small areas of the original paint finish.

The plane was shot down by the RAF on August 26 1940. Part of a large enemy formation, it was intercepted at noon as it tried to attack airfields in Essex.

This particular aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing on Goodwin Sands at low tide after an attack by Defiant fighters of No 264 Sqn that left both engines stopped and

the crew wounded. Now deposits have been removed, conservationists have found bullet holes and shrapnel damage.

While working on some of the smaller components, volunteers also discovered push rods still coated in their original oil and when a pipe was removed from a fuel injection unit, a small amount of fuel was still present.

While smaller components are still receiving conservation treatment, the Dornier's forward fuselage, tail boom and wing have been temporarily covered by tarpaulins.

Under the coverings with the plane's parts is a dehumidifier which controls the environment and reduces humidity.

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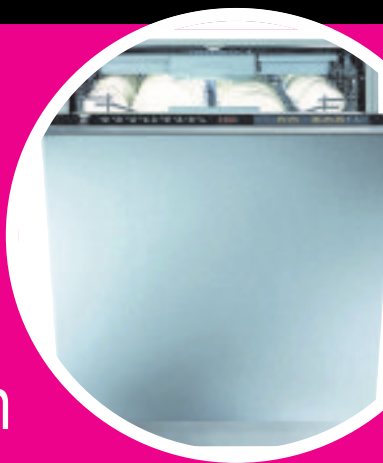
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Public to get a say on museum's next phase

BOSSES want the public's opinion on an £18 million masterplan for the future of the Black Country Living Museum after revealing more details about the attraction's future.

The museum in Tipton Road, Dudley, attracts around 300,000 visitors a year but chiefs are hoping to increase the amount to half a million as part of a 10-year forward plan. The plans will see 60 new jobs created.

Bosses need are currently seeking funding for the ambitious development, which could include moving the site's entrance from Tipton Road to Castle Hill.

Chief executive Andrew Lovett said the change would link the venue to Castle Hill, providing visitors with one shared arrival point to Dudley's four attractions - Dudley Zoo, Dudley Archives, Dudley Canal Trips and the museum.

1960s

Further proposals include a new visitor centre, exhibition space to display more of the museum's collection, conference, retail and café facilities.

Visitors, who are being urged to have their say using an online survey, would also emerge from the new visitor centre into a bustling 1940s to 1960s town featuring a library, more shops and restaurants, including a corner pub, houses and a bowling green.

Mr Lovett said: "There's a great opportunity to fulfil the museum's potential.

"At the moment on the site we don't really tell the story of the Black Country beyond about 1938 or so.

"One of the things that's driving us is the drive to complete that story and



The Red by Night event, at Black Country Living Museum

take people into the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. We think this is an opportunity to complement all the investment that's gone into the Castle Hill area."

A 1940s to 1960s area would include spaces for hire and even holiday accommodation while plans for a nearby manufacturing zone would

feature brick making and metal working areas.

The masterplan would see the museum's tramway extended to connect the developments, looping through the site in a figure-of-eight. The Rolfe Street entrance would be transformed into a learning centre for school visits.

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Call to re-open full length of railway track

"LIGHT rail link hopes linking Sandwell and Dudley are dashed". This decision was made last year, perhaps due to my insistence that Dudley people did not need to be shuttled on the very light rail tram on our own main line railway to Sandwell's, only 2km down the track.

Far better to re-open the full length of 20km from Stourbridge to Walsall with links to the north and south of the country on the national rail network.

This valuable and successful passenger line for 100 years will be destroyed for ever when Midland Metro

trams are introduced on only two short lengths either side of Dudley rail tunnel, beneath Castle Hill. The wasted main line railway will have, from Stourbridge, good trains for 5.5km, then 4km of light rail trams, 2km of very light rail shuttle trams, 3km of light rail trams once more and, then, a gap of 5.5km to Walsall!

In other words, on our 100-year-old line of successful fast and semi-fast trains and, after 50 years of being mothballed for the return of these trains, the councillors and officers are now to put a mixture of light rail and

very light rail trams over a length of only 9km. Then 11km will be wasted with no passenger commuter trains.

I urge readers to write to the Black Country Director of Transport, Stuart Everton, asking for the full length of 20km to be used once more for commuter trains. His address is Black Country Director of Transport, 1st Floor Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SH, or e-mail: Stuart.Everton@wolverhampton.gov.uk

T WELLS
Halesowen

Our nation has been stitched up

THE answer to why people have not yet mind up their mind to leave the EU is, to me, simple - millions of jobs.

The majority of our manufacturing industries are now owned by foreign multi-national companies, many with plants across Europe, and often with space capacity. If we voted to leave, the governments of Spain, Italy, and France for example, where employment is very high, would put pressure on the owners of these companies to move production to the continent, where they desperately need the jobs. Economically we would be defenceless.

Since we first became involved with the EU, four Prime Ministers have signed treaties taking us further down the road to full integration.

As a nation, we have been well and truly stitched up as this is not what we voted for under the first referendum organised by Edward Heath.

P SIMPSON
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Hard facts needed not just supposition

HAVING read the Government booklet on why it believes remaining in the EU is the best decision, I cannot find one single statement that is backed up by hard facts. All this booklet contains is seven pages of photographs which have no relevance, supposition, guesswork and misinformation. What a waste of taxpayers' money.

As regards Mark Carney's comments on his prediction of possible economic collapse if we leave the EU, considering most, if not all, his economic predictions and forecasts since becoming Governor of the Bank of England have proved to be wrong why should anyone take any notice of what he says? Jeremy Corbyn seems to change his mind every month or so.

The EU consists of 28 different countries all having their own government, laws, culture, religion and language. Not only that but most pay vast sums of money to prop up a bureaucratic nightmare which imposes laws and regulations on those countries whose people have no say in what the EU MPs vote for.

What people want is information from both sides which can be backed up by facts not ifs, butts or maybes.

H SMITH
Halesowen

Get rid of Tories to save NHS

THE Brexit campaign is trying to scare us into thinking that leaving the EU is the only way to save the NHS, claiming that so many hospitals could be built and everything would suddenly be wonderful.

What rubbish! The cost of running the NHS involves far more than building hospitals. It requires a commitment beyond that which Brexit supporters envisage.

The NHS has reaped enormous benefits from being in the EU in terms of shared research and technology.

We need to face the fact that the only way we can be certain of funding the NHS for future generations is by increasing taxes.

This Tory government flatly refuses to consider increasing income tax. Therefore, the only way to save the NHS is by getting rid of this Tory government, not by leaving the EU.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

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Expansion pays off as sales soar

DW Windows Ltd has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months since renovating its new premises in Meadow Lane, Coseley, creating one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands and generating 14 new jobs for local people.

The company's turnover has increased by 30 per cent and is well on target to double in the next couple of years.

Proud

The new state-of-the-art showroom and head office has plenty of space to allow future expansion into new areas and of course enables DW Windows Ltd to showcase many of its market leading products.

The showroom has eight conservatories and orangeries, a couple of porches and dozens of windows and doors on display, allowing customers to see, touch and feel before they invest their hardearned money.

Company director Dave Walters states: "It's been the best business decision I have ever made, opening the new place.

"The response from everyone who visits is overwhelming as the design, planning and creation of Meadow Lane is all my own doing and it really makes me proud when people congratulate me on what I have achieved. The increase in business speaks for itself.

"I am not a businessman, I am a window fitter by trade, from Bilston and have succeeded by doing the best job I can and being as honest and reliable as I can be," Dave adds.

"I try to install this work ethic into all of my staff. I have a great team around me now and I couldn't do this without them. All I ask of my fitters is to do the job better than if they were doing it in their own home and this pays off as six out of 10 of the new jobs we do are for repeat customers or recommendations."



DW Windows Ltd - Brand New 7600 square feet showroom over two floors

Success

Steve Bull, former England and Wolves legend, opened the new showroom in July last year which was a massive success and since then the phone just hasn't stopped ringing.

They are doing 40-50 quotations per week and since the open day have completed almost 500 new installations ranging from orangeries to single windows or doors. January has been the best on record with a 50 per cent increase in business on January 2015.

DW Windows Ltd are now nearing the end of their first 10 years of trading and are looking forward to the next 10 years.

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Striking similarities with Dagenham show



Kathryn Trigg, centre, with Made in Dagenham cast members from the operatic society, Eileen Woolley and Tasheka Coe

WHEN the story of the Dagenham machinists whose strike led to the Equal Pay Act reached the Wolverhampton stage last week, behind the scenes was the story of a similar stand made by Black Country women.

Ticket secretary Kathryn Trigg stunned fellow members of the West Bromwich Operatic Society - performing one of the first amateur productions of Made in Dagenham at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre - by revealing she had been a real-life strike leader. In 1975 she led a group

of shorthand typists out on strike at Bronx Engineering in Lye - and, just like the Dagenham women led by Rita O'Brien, they won.

Kathryn, 21 at the time, took on the role of union rep for the typing pool at Bronx. She said: "I wasn't militant, in fact I was quite timid but no one else wanted to do the job."

Union TASS suggested the shorthand typists push for equal pay. "We deemed ourselves to be skilled workers because we'd gone to college for at least 12 months but we were doing a lot less than the men who were doing an equivalent job. We compared ourselves to a young lad in the drawing office who'd had one week's training and just operated the printing machine and kept it topped up with fluid, yet he was paid twice as much as we were."

"We met with the management and when we told them we wanted equal pay, they said 'no way.'"

About 20 women, three-quarters of the typists, walked out. Three of them, including Kathryn, went to London to be interviewed by Dudley-born presenter Sue Lawley on national TV about their struggle.

In the end about a dozen more joined them on the picket line, including men, and the strike ended after a month with a new pay structure agreed.

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Chance to give hotel in Wall Heath a new lease of life

A HOTEL in Wall Heath has been put on the market with new occupants being sought to 'maximise its potential'.

The budget hotel that traded as The Kingfisher ceased trading last year. However, Lex Allan estate agents say the 40-room site has received interest from potential buyers.

The building in Kidderminster Road, which is separate to the new Hickory Smokehouse restaurant and adjoining health spa, is estimated at a rental value of £65,000 per year.

Ian Appleby, commercial property surveyor at Lex Allan, said: "The hotel closed around six months ago. It was rented by the owners to a tenant who didn't succeed with the venture. Prior to this it was run by the current owners. New furnishings, carpets and redecoration has

been done, hence the premium requested. It isn't connected to Hickory's Smoke House at all. We have had viewings and an offer and there continues to be interest."

A description on the website says that there are 40 en suite rooms.

The advertisement on Lex Allan's website states: "The premises are very well located on the edge of open countryside, yet affording easy access to the business centres of Wolverhampton and Dudley and further afield to Birmingham."

The hotel was situated behind the popular Kingfisher Club which was transformed into Hickory's Smokehouse last summer. The Kingfisher Country Club itself was built in the 1930s when it was known as the Kingfisher Lido, where it housed the only Olympic-sized swimming pool outside of London.



The former Kingfisher Hotel in Wall Heath has received lots of interest from potential new operators

College given £874k for artificial pitch

DUDLEY College has netted an £874,000 grant to help install a 3G artificial pitch at its Priory Road site.

The college secured the cash pot from the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund. It will go towards the £1.3 million needed to create the new all-weather training complex. The Priory Road 3G Football Complex is due to open in September this year, a month after the start of the new football season.

College bosses said the facility, which will include changing rooms for players and officials as well as a stand for spectators, will be open for use by community and lower league teams as well as the college's own students.

Principal Lowell Williams said: "By working together with a range of partners, including the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund, Dudley Council and Castle High School, we have been able to make the dream of a 3G pitch a reality."

"The college is keen this becomes a shared community resource and we are eager to hear from junior or senior clubs that would be interested in using it."

Robbery on bus lands three thugs in prison

A MOBILE phone has led to three thugs being sent to jail for between three-and-a-half and four-and-a-half years.

The trio struck on a bus travelling from the Merry Hill Shopping Centre in Brierley Hill to Birmingham, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

They surrounded a pair of teenagers, aged 15 and 16, who were sitting on the top deck.

Curtis Hendrickson, aged 26, Norman Corbett, 21, and Leo Connolly, 22 – all with previous convictions – had boarded the bus shortly after the two teens on January 2 last year.

Mr Ian Ball, prosecuting, said: "The three defendants engaged the lads in conversation before switching seats so that they were both in front and behind them."

"Corbett had brought a knife with him and this was used to reinforce the threats. They surrounded the lads and said: 'What have you got for me? What about a phone?'"

The teenagers both gave the gang their phones but one was rejected because it had a cracked screen.

The other victim refused to reveal the password for his mobile until the knife was pointed at him.

He later told police: "I was just happy not to be stabbed. It was only a phone and I cancelled the SIM card." But his friend conceded: "I was very scared and felt intimidated. I didn't know what they were going to do next."

The victims contacted the police who checked CCTV from the bus and recog-

By John Scott

nised the culprits, who were arrested on various dates between April 22 and June 24 last year. Corbett and Hendrickson were already in custody for other offences when tracked down.

The defendants all had a significant number of previous convictions and, in the case of Corbett, these included eight robberies, some of which were carried out at knife-point on buses in carbon copies of the latest offence. Connolly was said to have mental issues caused by excessive drug use.

Connolly, of Langdale Road, Great Barr, and Hendrickson, of Hampton Road, Erdington, were each jailed for three-and-a-half years while Corbett, of Dingle Street, Oldbury, received a four-and-a-half year sentence. Each defendant admitted robbery and attempted robbery.

Recorder Abigail Nixon told them: "This was a terrifying offence against two lads who were minding their own business on a bus. You all played your part in intimidating them simply for a mobile phone."

Ex-police chief takes on £1,000 a day job

EX-WEST Midlands Chief Constable Chris Sims has taken up a top police job earning £1,000 a day.

Mr Sims, who retired in January with a pension believed to be worth around £150,000 per year, is now working as an adviser for the National Police Chiefs Council, the body for senior police officers. He will work two days a week at a rate of £1,000 a day – worth the equivalent of £260,000 pro rata or £125 per hour based on a normal working day.

As Chief Constable, he was paid £200,000 a year in salary and benefits and oversaw cuts of £125 million – with 1,300 officers losing their jobs.

A spokesman for the National Police Chiefs Council said: "Chris Sims is extremely well qualified to advise on important national work that aims to improve policing for the public. The changes will help police tackle new threats and improve the service for the public."

Mr Sims was contacted for comment.



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Kate lost half her weight and set up fashion firm

A DUDLEY mother-of-two who lost eight stone after life-threatening health concerns has now set up her own clothing company.

Kate Turner, aged 34, from Gornal, managed to slim down to size 12 from being a size 24.

At her heaviest Mrs Turner weighed 19 stone but after a lifestyle and diet change, along with having a gastric band fitted, she now weighs just over 11 stone.

The former lecturer has decided to turn fashionista by launching her new clothing company called 'Love The Size You In'.

"At age 25 I weighed 19 stone, just after having my first son Harry," Mrs Turner said.

Problems

"I had had a few health problems due to being overweight. My gall-bladder was removed, my spleen was enlarged, knee operations due to excessive wear, backache, general fatigue and I was borderline diabetic.

"I knew I had to do something as my life was being threatened by the amount of weight I was carrying.

"My partner Kieran wanted us to get married but at the size I was I didn't want to hide my wedding photographs away," she added.

In August 2010, a year before having her second son, Ronnie, Mrs Turner decided to pay to have a gastric band fitted, which saw her lose four stone by January 2011. She got married in July 2013 weighing ten-and-a-half stone.

"I always struggled to get nice clothes to fit, because I was young and wanted to wear what my friends did. This frustration always stayed with me."

For more information visit the www.lovetheizeyourin.com website.



Gornal mum Kate before losing weight



Slimline Kate on her wedding day

Fancy dress picnic at zoo

A FANCY dress picnic party for under-fives takes place at Dudley Zoo at the end of this month.

Taking place in the castle courtyard on June 29 and 30, entertainment will include puppet shows, magic acts, a bouncy castle, balloon modelling, nursery rhymes and fairytales and face painting.

There will also be a chance to meet the zoo's tiger mascot, Jambi, as well as getting up close to furry friends during animal encounters, feeds and

talks. Youngsters will also be able to show-off their fancy dress outfits in a parade around the courtyard with medals available for all participants.

The zoo's marketing manager Andrea Hales said: "Our under-fives days are always great fun, so why not make a picnic and come and join us for a fun-filled day?"

Tickets are available to book in advance at £6 for children aged two to five and £6 per adult. Under-twos are free.

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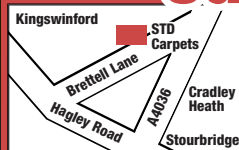
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AUTHOR Miranda Dickinson's eighth book will be published later this year. Searching For A Silver Lining is out in October.

In her blog, the best-selling writer from Lower Gornal said she has had 'the best time writing' the book, which will be published by PanMacmillan.

"When spirited former singing star Reenie Silver enters her life, Mattie seizes the opportunity to make amends. Together, Mattie and Reenie embark on an incredible journey that will find lost friends, uncover secrets from the glamorous 1950s and put right a 60-year wrong."

Summer choir concert date

A SUMMER concert will be performed by Coseley Male Voice Choir in Sedgley this weekend.

A Summer's Evening of Song will be presented at St Andrew's Church in Bilston Street on Saturday. Special guest and compere for the evening is Tipton poet David Bartley.

Tickets for the concert, which starts at 7.30pm, costs £6 on the door, or are available in advance from choir members or from the secretary on 0121 5200739.

FOCUS ON SEDGLEY AND GORNAL AREA

Appeal for extra help to keep youth club running

A YOUTH club in Lower Gornal has been revived – but volunteers say they need continued support to ensure it goes from strength to strength.

The club runs at Lower Gornal Youth Centre every Friday and has been brought back after it ended last summer.

Thanks to the hard work of a group of volunteers, the group was reinstated earlier this year. However, volunteer Lisa Blackham said numbers had started to dwindle again and the club needed a boost to ensure it can remain a going concern throughout the year.

Mrs Blackham said: "Quite a few local children were going so when it closed last summer they all had nowhere to go on a Friday night."

Business

"A couple of the parents who had children who were missing out got together to try to get things done and running again."

"We held a few meetings and got a small business plan to get things going. It's been really good."

However, the turnout has dropped again in recent weeks, according to Mrs Blackham.

"The last couple of weeks numbers have gone down a bit, because the children are

By David Cosgrove

stopping out in the parks a bit more," she said.

"There are 70 kids registered and in a really good week we would get 40 down there. But the last couple of weeks the numbers have gone down. Our concern is if it doesn't run all the way through the summer then come the winter time there won't be a youth club again."

Becky Pickin from Dudley CVS who helped in the club's revival said: "People in Lower Gornal have rallied, mobilised and rolled up their sleeves to reopen the Friday night youth club at Lower Gornal Youth Centre, and I've really enjoyed supporting them to make it happen."

Mrs Blackham said the group would welcome any new volunteers. For more information visit the group's Facebook page.



Brenda Tomlinson and Harry Shaw get ready for a royal celebration at All Saints' Church

Memories from reign of Queen

AN exhibition at a church in Sedgley is set to chronicle key events in the Dudley area during the course of the Queen's life.

The display at All Saints' Church opens on Friday, June 10, at 10am with singing by choirs from St Chad's, Cotwall End and Woodsetton schools.

On Saturday, June 11, there will be organ recitals by Martyn Platts, the church organist, and on Sunday, June 12, at 10.30am a service celebrates the Queen as head of the Church of England.

Memories of Gornal and Sedgley residents covering the Queen's reign until 2012 have been collected and children from the junior church at All Saints' have prepared displays covering 2013 to the present.

Organiser Martin Jones said: "We want to bring local people together to celebrate the Queen's life as a community."

Most of new Baggeridge homes sold

MORE than 65 per cent of homes have been sold at the David Wilson Homes Mercia development at Baggeridge Village, located between Sedgley and Wombourne.

The site off Gospel End Road at Gospel End, features two, three, four and five bedroom homes. These are in a range of terraced, semi-detached and detached designs with prices starting from £210,000.

Park

The development of 170 homes alongside Baggeridge Country Park has proved popular with house hunters with only two of the five-bedroom homes remaining unsold.

Philippa Stewart, sales manager at David Wilson Homes Mercia said: "Once these are sold no more five bedroom properties are to be built on the site."

Water works on busy road

A BUSY Sedgley road is being manned by temporary traffic lights throughout this week.

Northway will be operated under the traffic management system until tomorrow (Friday).

This is because South Staffordshire Water is carrying out relay water service works.

The road has been subject to a campaign group survey in recent months due to safety fears of speeding traffic.

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History centre's family Viking fun

CHILDREN can take part in foam sword-fighting and learn how to make a shield at a Viking-themed day in Dudley this weekend.

The free event at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre is suitable for children aged five and over and takes place on Saturday, from 2-4pm. Booking is advisable on 01384 812770.

The Black Country-based re-enactment organisation Jorvik Viking will hold storytelling sessions and stage mock battles.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "The word Viking conjures up many images of marauding warriors but we hope that our event with storytelling and other activities will also show other aspects of life in the Viking community."

Neigh bother – stray horses reined in across Black Country

THEY'VE trampled over gardens and given many a driver a shock after wandering out into the road.

But it seems that after years of stray horses causing a nuisance in the Black Country, they are finally being reined in.

Councils report a significant drop in numbers across the area with fewer reports of the animals roaming in Sandwell and Dudley.

The number collected from streets and open spaces has fallen by 32 per cent overall compared with the previous year and more than 60

per cent compared with 2013. Numbers have fallen from an average of around 200 a year in 2013 to 74 in 2015/16 with the majority of animals later rehomed.

Easier

New laws were introduced last year making it easier for councils and the RSPCA to take action against owners who abandon their animals.

In Sandwell there were 29 horses rounded up from streets in 2015/16 – down from 47 during the previous 12 months.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for

regeneration and investment, said: "There is a drop in the numbers which we believe is down to better education of horse owners since the new act came into force. Owners must know that illegally-tethered horses on council-owned land will not be tolerated."

In Dudley a total of 45 horses were found roaming roads and grass areas during 2015/16 – down from 51 in 2014/15.

More than 600 were collected from the two boroughs between 2011 and 2014.

Areas plagued in recent years have included Fens Pool nature reserve and Russells Hall.

Delays as car flips on M-way

A CAR overturned on the M5 near Hale-sowen causing tailbacks for more than an hour. The car flipped over on the motorway slip road at 9.30am last Thursday and a motorist was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

It is believed the BMW lost control as it joined the carriageway from the island junction at Manor Way.

Around 15 firefighters along with two ambulances and a paramedic officer attended.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matt Smith said: "One woman had to be cut out the vehicle by fire service crews."

Traffic tailed back to West Bromwich. Emergency services left the scene after about an hour.

Police seek stalker suspect



Police want to identify this man, who is suspected of following a teenage girl

POLICE are searching for a man who has followed a 16-year-old girl around on several occasions.

The girl contacted police in April after being followed at least three times in the Colley Gate and Cradley areas.

The first of occasion was on March 30 when the teenager fled after the man tried to pull her into a side street.

She was followed onto the number 9 bus at Stourbridge bus station by the man, pictured by bus CCTV, who tailed her all the way to Windmill Hill in Cradley.

After leaving the bus at around 8.50pm the man tried talking to the teenager before attempting to pull her into Forecraft Street.

The girl managed to run away but has since had two similarly frightening run-ins with the man.

Police say they have put measures in place to keep the 16-year-old safe but have been unable to trace the suspect, who is described as black, around 6ft tall with a medium build and aged 25-to-30-years-old.

Officers last week released CCTV images in a bid to identify the suspect.

Anyone with information should call Pc Drew Turner at Brierley Hill police station on 101, email contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 quoting crime number 20DY/74822X/16.

Artist's work on display at gallery

AN artist from Cradley Heath will be showcasing her work at a new gallery in the town. Fran Wilde's exhibition Review features etchings, drawings and short films.

It will be on display from next Tuesday, June 7 until July 2 at The Art Yard in Reddal Hill Road.

Ms Wilde, who studied fine art in Birmingham in the 1980s said: "The gallery is a fantastic addition to the arts landscape around Cradley Heath."

"This show is giving me a great opportunity to look again at some of the work that I have produced over the past 20 years and to share it with local people who are interested in art."

The exhibition is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 11am to 2pm and there will be a 'meet the artist' event on June 19 between 11am and 3pm. Ms Wilde is also chairman of Cradley Heath Creative – a community group based in Cradley Heath and Old Hill.

Sew show is popular

A CRAFT show will be returning to the NEC for three days this summer.

Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycraft will be held at the venue near Birmingham from July 1 to 3.

More than 60 stands will be selling craft supplies, as well as craft demonstrations taking place and dedicated workshop areas. Crafts will also include jewellery making, quilting and beading.

Tickets cost £8 (seniors £7). For more information visit www.ichfevents.co.uk website.

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Former Frankie Goes to Hollywood star Holly Johnson in action

Easy as ABC for fabulous fun from 80s



Tiffany, who will be performing at the country park



ABC's Martin Fry, with guitarist Matt Backer, watched by a huge crowd. The band has a new single out, Viva Love

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

LET'S Rock Birmingham!
The Retro Festival takes place on Saturday June 11 at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

With a fabulous line-up of artists to bring you the very best of the 80s, and an action packed day of general 80s madness – there is plenty to do for everyone at this family friendly festival.

The confirmed acts are Holly Johnson, Kim Wilde, Jimmy Somerville, ABC, Midge Ure, Go West, Nick Heyward, Five Star, Altered Images, Dr and the Medics, and Brother Beyond. Tiffany also returns to the UK stage, making her first appearance here in many years.

Let's Rock Birmingham! is aimed at the whole family. Children can enjoy a huge amount of stuff to keep them occupied, including circus workshops with the Bigtop-mania Circus, face painting, crafts, tricycles and the 'Disco Shack'!

There will be a super funfair as well as children's entertainers, meaning Let's Rock Birmingham! offers the perfect day out for all the family. There will also be multiple bars, plus a wide range of quality food outlets selling food from around the world.

VIP tickets allow access to a funky 80s-themed VIP enclosure, where you can sit back and relax in the comfy chill out zone or enjoy the outdoor seating area.

The VIP enclosure includes a full bar serving quality brands and 80s cocktails, plus of course the all important VIP luxury loos – essential at any festival!

VIP tickets include entry to the festival plus a souvenir programme, meal and welcome drink. Let's Rock! has been leading the way for quality, action-packed, family-friendly 80s music festivals since 2009.

Don't miss out on this chance for a retro blast from the past with the very best of the 80s. For further information and to book tickets, go to www.letsrockbirmingham.com



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VIP tickets allow access to our funky 80s themed VIP enclosure, where you can kick back and relax in our comfy chill out zone or enjoy the outdoor seating area.

Fancy dress is recommended, but not compulsory!

Gates open 11am
Festival starts 12pm

For further information and to book please visit:
www.letsrockbirmingham.com

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Farage: 'Don't fall for constant diet of lies'

NIGEL Farage launched into a tirade against David Cameron and George Osborne when he visited Dudley, accusing them of peddling 'a constant diet of lies' over the European Union referendum.

The UKIP leader was driven into the town centre on the party's purple open-top Brexit battle bus – dubbed the giant aubergine – and was greeted by hundreds.

Many held placards bearing the words: 'We want our country back' and cheered loudly when the bus pulled into the town's Market Place.

Enemy

The theme tune from The Great Escape blasted out over loudspeakers as a beaming Mr Farage addressed the cheering throng from the top of the bus against a backdrop of the Black Country flag.

He said: 'I'm beginning to think it isn't Brussels that is the enemy. At least they are honest about what they want to do. The real enemy is our political class, backed up with the multi-national companies and the big banks and the constant diet of lies we get from Osborne and Cameron every single day.'

'A bunch of people who have never had a proper job in their lives

telling us trade would be affected (if we leave the EU). Well I tell you what, we'll go on buying and selling cars and I intend on going on drinking French wine regardless of whether we are part of the European Union or not.'

'But I think one of the reasons that the Remain campaign has taken a bit of a lead is that not enough people on the Leave side are making strong enough arguments.'

'Our politicians have given away control of our country. They have given away control of our borders and our message has got to be clear, it's got to be assertive. We believe in this country, we believe in its people and we want our country back.'

Waving a passport, he added: 'And while we're at it, that should be a British passport, but what does it say on it? The first two words it says are 'European Union'. We want our passports back. We want our borders back. We want our nation back. And when we are a self-governing nation we can make laws that suit this country and we can make trade deals, not just with Europe, but we'll embrace the rest of the world, starting with our friends in the Commonwealth, who we should never have turned our backs on.'



Hundreds greeted UKIP leader Nigel Farage during his walkabout in Dudley town centre after his Brexit battle bus rolled into the Black Country

Hundreds of suspects deported to face courts

NEARLY 500 suspected criminals living in the West Midlands – including alleged killers and fraudsters – have been deported to face charges in other European countries in the past six years, new figures have revealed.

Data released by the Home Office shows 495 suspected criminals have been extradited from the region since 2010 using the European Arrest Warrant.

Over the same period, 54 suspects were snared in Europe and brought back to the West Midlands – including some of Britain's most-wanted fugitives.

West Mercia Police, which covers Shropshire, deported 72 suspects and extradited five back to the UK, while 62 suspects were arrested in Staffordshire, with the county's force extraditing 24.

West Midlands Police accounted for the bulk of the arrests, with 323 suspects deported – the second highest figure in the country.

Crooks

The group included Polish national Grzegorz Badura, who was arrested in West Bromwich in November 2015 having been on the run for more than a year.

He was sent back to Poland to serve the remainder of a sentence for fraud.

The force extradited 23 suspected crooks back to the UK.

Warwickshire Police arrested 38 suspected foreign criminals and extradited two over the six year period. West Midlands Police said it could not comment on a

By Peter Madeley

political issue so close to the EU referendum, on June 23.

The EU-wide warrant allows police forces across Europe to easily bring suspects who go on the run back to face trial in the UK.

Last summer the force launched a major crack-down on foreign criminals, Operation Trivium, which led to dozens of arrests in the region.

Use of the European Arrest Warrant has been a key part of pro-Europe arguments in the run up to the in/out vote.

Sir Hugh Orde, former president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said: 'European policing measures mean the long arm of the law now extends right across the continent.'

'The European Arrest Warrant also means we can easily deport dangerous criminals back to other countries.'

Justice Secretary Michael Gove vowed emergency legislation in the event of a Brexit, to exempt the intelligence agencies from EU law and make it easier to deport EU criminals.

Live opera screening

FAMOUS opera The Barber Of Seville will be screened live at Stourbridge Town Hall this month. It will be performed on stage on June 21 at the 2016 Glyndebourne Festival in East Sussex and broadcast live to the venue.

The opera has not been performed at the festival since 1982. Tickets for the performance, which starts at 6.30pm, are £16 for adults and £12 for children.

To book call 01384 812812.

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Pioneering women who led the way for female slant to politics

MEMORY LANE

By Richard Guttridge

THE 1918 general election was a groundbreaking vote as women went to the polls for the first time.

And while the battles of the suffragettes to secure the vote for women went down in history, less is known about the first women who stood for election.



Former MEP David Hallam, of Smethwick

Of the 17 women who contested the election, three were from the Black Country and Birmingham – meaning the West Midlands provided more female candidates than anywhere else in the UK.

Daunting

It was a proud moment for Mary MacArthur, Margery Corbett Ashby and Christobel Pankhurst – daughter of suffragette leader Emmeline – but surely a slightly daunting one too as they entered into a political scene which had previously been a men-only club.

Their stories have been retold almost 100 years on from that historic election by David Hallam, a former MEP from Smethwick, who carried out research as part of his Masters of Arts course at Birmingham University.

While the three women were at the forefront of early 20th century girl



Part of a poster for Christabel Pankhurst's campaign

power, the unity ended there as they stood for different parties.

Mary MacArthur contested the Stourbridge seat, which also included Oldbury, Halesowen and Warley Woods, for Labour.

Christobel Pankhurst stood in Smethwick as a Women's Party Coalition Candidate.

Margery Corbett Ashby had the toughest task as she took on the might of the Unionist electoral machine in Birmingham Ladywood facing Neville

Chamberlain, who would later become Prime Minister.

Just getting on the ballot paper was a victory in itself but it soon became clear their path towards the House of Commons would be anything but straightforward.

And it wasn't to be as all three women were defeated. Of the 17 women who stood across the UK, just one was elected and that was in Dublin which was at that time still part of the union.



Mary MacArthur sets out her stall

"All three women were in their 30s whilst their well entrenched male opponents were much older, in their 40s or 50s," Mr Hallam said.

Opponents

"All three were disappointed with the outcome. Both MacArthur and Pankhurst were tipped to win by local and national pundits."

Mary MacArthur in particular was given a rough ride by opposition candidates.



Family-orientated – Margery Corbett Ashby

Mr Hallam said: "She was subject to some really sexist abuse from her opponents."

"Of course, no-one thought of having female MPs. The press also made a big fuss about it so there was a novelty value."

"But it was an unusual election. Most of the troops were away on active service."

"In a town like Smethwick around a quarter of the men would have been away."

Only one of the defeated candidates from the West Midlands would stand again as their lives took very different paths.

MacArthur died soon afterwards, Pankhurst withdrew from politics altogether to concentrate on promoting her religious beliefs.

Corbett Ashby, meanwhile, battled on, contesting another six elections.

But her dream to stand as an MP would never be realised as she was unsuccessful on each occasion.

But while the three women would never take their seats in Parliament, they were the inspiration for those who followed.

Mr Hallam said: "It was something of an inauspicious start but it was an historic moment."

President

Today, there are seven female MPs in the Black Country and Birmingham.

And looking further afield the United States could have its first female president later this year in Hillary Clinton.

But it was a journey that was far from easy.

Mr Hallam said: "Women achieved the vote and the right to stand for Parliament in 1918 and yet for nearly 70 years afterwards never held more than five per cent, averaging about 25 of the 600 or so seats in the House of Commons."

"Even today there are only 148 female MPs."

"My study of those first three women throws some light on the resistance women met, and still meet, when putting themselves forward for election."

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Evacuation after hoax bomb call

A SCHOOL in Halesowen was evacuated after what police described as a 'false and malicious' bomb scare.

Earls High School received a call at around 10.30am last Friday, prompting pupils to be removed from the main buildings.

Supt Phil Dolby said: "We are investigating after a bomb threat was called through to a school in Dudley this morning."

"Earls High School received the call at around 10.30am."

"Pupils have been moved out of the main buildings but remain at the school at this time and officers are currently at the scene."

"At this early stage police believe the report to be false and malicious."

Police said there was nothing to suggest the hoax was linked with several earlier in the year which saw days of disruption at schools around the region.

Pupils returned to lessons in the afternoon.

Review could lead to pension law change to save steel jobs

THE Government is launching a consultation on changes to pensions law as part of its efforts to save Indian group Tata's UK steel business.

The firm has been under threat since Tata revealed that it was looking to sell or even close the loss-making operation, which employs 11,000 people in the UK including about 750 in the Black Country in Wednesfield, Wednesbury, Walsall and Brierley Hill.

Business Secretary Sajid Javid unveiled the plan to MPs just hours after returning from Mumbai where he met executives of the Indian conglomerate.

The suggested change includes cutting the

British Steel Pension Fund's long-term liabilities by benchmarking it to the consumer price index rather than the higher retail price index.

The move could save £2.5 billion, but would reduce benefits to those receiving pensions.

The British Steel pension scheme has 130,000 members and assets of £13.3bn, but its deficit has grown to nearly £700 million.

Security

Mr Javid said the consultation on the scheme was designed to provide clarity and security for members. He said the pension scheme's trustees believed almost every member would be 'better off or no worse off' under the proposed changes.

The steel unions are waiting to see details of

the consultation, but will seek "cast iron" safeguards that any changes to the British Steel Pension Fund do not lead to employers "dodging" their responsibilities.

Former pensions minister in the coalition, Liberal Democrat Steve Webb, director of policy at pensions firm Royal London, has warned that the Government is "going down a very dangerous path" in seeking to change the law.

Meanwhile, Mr Javid has also been talking to Tata Steel's bosses about the sale of its UK business. Seven potential bidders have come forward and are being assessed by the company.

He told MPs: "They assured me they remain absolutely committed to being a responsible seller."

MP urged over homeless law

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris been urged to seize an historic opportunity to make a change to the law on homelessness.

Mr Morris was among 20 MPs selected in a Private Members' Bill ballot, which gives him the chance to put forward a public bill to parliament on an issue of his choice.

National homelessness charity Crisis has urged him to champion a change in the law that will ensure homeless people in England can no longer be turned away to sleep rough by their council.

The proposed bill would see a reformed law requiring all councils in England to take action to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place. According to figures revealed in February, 457 people were found sleeping rough on any given night in the West Midlands in 2015.

Snow leopard is going home



Makalu the snow leopard is going to Darjeeling Zoo near where the species is from

DUDLEY Zoo's youngest snow leopard has been given a clean bill of health by keepers as preparations begin for his impending departure.

Two-year-old Makalu will soon be leaving the Castle Hill attraction for Darjeeling Zoo, almost 5,000 miles away, as part of a global breeding programme, which could potentially see Makalu's descendants released into the wild.

Curator Richard Brown said: "This is an incredibly exciting move for Makalu and the snow leopard species in general, as he'll be playing an important role in securing the future of their endangered species. Darjeel-

ing Zoo is located in the foot of the Himalayan mountains, which is the native region of the snow leopard and is internationally recognised for its conservation breeding programmes for the species, so Makalu is going to the best place possible."

Ahead of the move, which is expected to happen within weeks, the zoo's veterinary team carried out a full health check on the snow leopard. Makalu, who was born in Dudley on April 17, 2014, was sedated throughout the 10-minute investigation, which included blood tests and a rabies vaccination. The big cat was also measured and weighed for his travel crate to India.

Driver hurt in crash while another flees

A DRIVER suffered minor injuries in a two-car collision in Brierley Hill. The driver of the other vehicle fled the scene following the crash last Tuesday evening, May 24.

The one driver was treated by paramedics at the scene in Coppice Lane. Pictures from the scene show a white car with damage, including its door hanging off and with the air bag having gone off inside.

Staff from Brierley Hill Fire Station had tweeted that after the crash a 'driver had absconded' the scene.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "We got a 999 call at 9.34pm on Tuesday to an RTC."

"It was to an incident of two motor vehicles in collision on a roadway."

"One of the drivers had suffered minor injuries and was being treated by paramedics."

He added the road was closed while fire crews made the scene safe.

Warning of road delays

MOTORISTS will face up to six days of delays when roadworks start on a busy route in Cradley Heath tomorrow (Friday).

National Grid will be carrying out the works, which are deemed 'essential', on Halesowen Road, near Haden Hill House Museum and the Haden Hill Leisure Centre.

Temporary signals will be put up to control the flow of traffic.

Sandwell Highways said 'delays are likely' as a result of the works.

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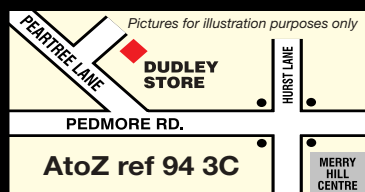
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Fundraisers fighting to help heart transplant pal



Front, event organiser Jason Brewster and Alan Bladen with fellow fundraisers at Tipton Sports & Social Club

A MAN in need of a heart transplant has received a financial boost from his boxing pal and other friends.

Alan Bladen, aged 66, died three times in hospital after a heart attack, but the retired factory worker came out punching, and is now on the transplant list.

In the meantime, his pal Jason Brewster, a former Midlands boxing champion, has rallied to help raise funds to help Mr Bladen out. A recent fundraiser pulled in £3,800 to go

towards his care. Mr Brewster said: "Half his heart is dead, he's got a mechanical device in there keeping him alive. He's on the transplant waiting list."

"We held a fun day and an auction in Tipton, and I called in a few favours from friends in the boxing fraternity. We had lots of gifts as well. It was a really good day."

Mr Bladen, who also worked as a driver before he retired, is set to tie the knot with his fiancée Julie Edmonds in July.

Mr Brewster added: "He gets married on July 8, it's a bit of a rushed

wedding. We're going up to Blackpool for his stag.

"His fiancée Julie has been his rock. I'm just really happy he's still here and want to do everything I can to help."

Later this year, Mr Brewster will get into the ring for charity with former world heavyweight champion Tim Witherspoon, who once knocked out Frank Bruno at Wembley.

He said: "He's a former world champion, I'm probably mad. But it should be a really good night."

Tickets will be available in July for the October 21 fight, which will take place at Brierley Hill Civic Centre.

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Sponsored walk aids care charity

A SPONSORED family walk is taking place in Baggeridge Country Park, Sedgley, this weekend.

The walk gets under way at 11am on Sunday (June 5).

It has been organised by Esther Mandale and Elaine Deeming from Lifted Spirits in Kingswinford to raise funds for the Complete CHAOS! play scheme, which is run by the WeLoveCarers charity.

The scheme, for severely disabled children who are unable to access mainstream activities, receives no funding and relies on parent contributions and fundraising to keep it going.

All families are encouraged to join in, bring a picnic and have some fun.

Anyone wishing to help with fundraising or find out more about the charity should email Rachael@welovecarers.org.

To make a donation to the sponsored walk, visit www.justgiving.com/Esther-Mandale

'Zero tolerance' as ban comes in force on former legal highs

LETHAL legal highs are no longer available over the counter as a new law that could see offenders jailed for up to seven years came into force last week.

A blanket ban on the substances has been brought in amid fears they have caused deaths and fuel anti-social behaviour.

The Psychoactive Substances Act forbids the 'production, supply and importation or exportation for human consumption of the drugs'.

Shelves across the Black Country have been cleared of the highs, which

were linked to the deaths of 144 people in the UK in 2014 alone.

Borough bosses in Dudley welcomed said they will have a 'zero-tolerance' policy on the drugs. But concerns have been raised that dealers could turn to illicit websites to continue selling.

Harmful

Councillor Rachel Harris, Dudley Council cabinet member for health, said: "We've always been vigilant about the safety of the public and will continue to be after the change in the law. A lot of people are aware that some of these substances can be very harmful. We will continue working in

co-operation with other partners and have a zero tolerance to such items.

"As a council we need to work with all our communities to make sure that these practices which harm people are kept at bay. We appreciate any information from the public if they are suspicious of these substances being sold or want to check if something is legal."

Commander Simon Bray, National Police Chiefs Council lead on New Psychoactive Substances, said those determined to get hold of the drugs might turn to the 'dark web'. But he said the law will mean Britons can no longer stroll into a 'headshop' and buy mind altering drugs.



The notorious Black Mamba

Exhibitors flock to country fair

MORE than 100 exhibitors and stalls head to historic Himley Park for a steam and country fair this weekend.

The popular event is now in its third year and takes place from 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Attendance is free, but small parking charges apply.

On show will be steam engines, tractors, classic cars, vintage motorbikes and cycles, while the Midlands Volunteer Fire Service will have vintage appliances on display.

Wolverhampton and District Model Engineering Society bring their miniature steam train and there will be children's funfair rides and a Punch & Judy show.

There are still a few places left for people wishing to bring a vehicle along or have a stall. Call Jacki Wynn, assistant events officer, on 01384 817822 or email jacki.wynn@dudley.gov.uk

Garages targeted in early morning thefts



Robert Bett's garage in Netherton was ransacked by thieves

THIEVES stole thousands of pounds worth of equipment after ransacking two commercial garages in Netherton and using a forklift truck to move machinery.

Tools and machinery worth up to £5,000 were taken from Betts Motor Services after thieves broke in through the roof. In a separate incident on the same night, the forklift was used to steal £1,000 worth of equipment from JCG Auto's garage in Cradley Heath, causing about £15,000 worth of damage.

Police do not believe the burglaries were linked.

Robert Bett, owner of Betts Motor Service, said diagnostics machinery and impact guns were among the equipment stolen from his firm during the raid on May 17.

He said: "I reckon they stole around £3,000 to £5,000 worth of equipment."

His alarm had activated in the early hours but the thieves had already fled by the time he reached the garage.

The burglary at JCG Autos garage happened around 4am.

West Midlands Police said officers were investigating.

McFly postpone tour due to Harry's injury

MCFLY have been forced to postpone their UK tour after drummer Harry Judd suffered an injury.

The band were due to play at the O2 Academy in Birmingham later this month but the gigs have been rescheduled following the herniated disc injury.

Judd, who won Strictly Come Dancing in 2011, suffered the injury at the base of his neck. He said: "I'm absolutely gutted that we've had to postpone the tour. I've honestly tried everything to make it work but I'd never want to do a tour where I wouldn't be able to give you the 110 per cent performance you deserve."

Fans who have bought tickets won't have too long to wait with the tour rescheduled for September. The four, whose hits include All About You, were due to play three nights in Birmingham between June 20 and 22. They have been moved to September 21, 22 and 23. Tickets remain valid or refunds available from point of purchase.

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Express & Star



Reg Malpas from Amblecote with the original plaque unveiled by the Duke of Gloucester

Monorail engineer didn't Welsh on bet with cheeky singers

THE only mechanical engineer for the short-lived but well remembered Merry Hill monorail has told how a cheeky set of customers once blew him away with a magnificent musical performance.

Trying to cadge a free ride on the monorail, the Welsh chaps bet Reg Malpas they could wow him with their music, before belting out a sensational rendition. The lads just so happened to be the Welsh Male Voice Choir.

June 1 marks the 25th anniversary since the opening of the monorail, and Mr Malpas, aged 65, shared his tales of working on it throughout its operation from 1981-96.

He said of his musical encounter: "One day this bunch of Welsh lads wanted a free ride. They said 'can we pay with a song'. I thought they were having me on so I said 'go on then lets hear it'."

"Then they sang this beautiful song, it blew me away, it was amazing. It turned out they were only the Welsh Male Voice Choir. I couldn't believe it."

Construction of the £22 million elevated monorail took place alongside the final phase of the Merry Hill Shopping Centre in 1988-89, but due to safety concerns, didn't until over a year and a half after the completion of the centre.

Four stations were built, named Waterfront East, Grand Central, Times Square (for the bus station) and Boulevard. Mr Malpas believes it was a wonderful piece of machinery, and a great attraction for Dudley.

Smooth

He said: "The monorail really was a fantastic piece of equipment. I think the only other one in the UK at the time was at Alton Towers. It was so smooth, not like transport nowadays."

"It was very safe. I hadn't worked on anything like it before, but even though I was the only mechanical engineer, it was very safe. If anything went wrong it would just pull up, the brakes would go straight on."

Mr Malpas couldn't believe he was trusted with the responsibility on his own for the maintenance of the monorail, but enjoyed his five years.

He said: "I was qualified as an engineer, but was working at the Merry Hill centre as a security guard. I saw the advert for the job, applied for it never thinking I'd get it, but I did. Then I was trained up and worked for the whole time it was running."

"I had a really good time, very happy memories."

"I'd have a carriage in the shed. I'd have to make checks all the way through it, from front to back, making sure everything was working properly, the brakes and what have you. Then I'd sort out anything that needed mending or replacing. Then when I'd finish one carriage, I'd have another in the shed and it went on like that."

The monorail was temporarily closed in 1992, but ran sporadically until 96, when it was closed and put up for sale. The trains and track were bought by Oasis Shopping Centre, in Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia.

Mr Malpas said: "It's still in use today which shows how advanced it must have been for us to have it all those years ago."



The jacket badge worn by Reg Malpas



A snapshot of the monorail station taken by Reg Malpas



A keen photographer Reg took pictures of the monorail

fast the ticket

Pappy power

Gala date lined up for comedy trio
See Page 25



Teal appeal

Show hits town— Page 25



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Hilarity for charity at Grand night out

WOLVERHAMPTON'S own comedy group Pappy's, stars of TV series *Badults*, are among a stellar line-up of comics performing at the Hilarity Charity Gala 2016.

Comedy sketch trio Pappy's are Matthew Crosby, Ben Clark and Tom Parry, with Ben and Tom both being former members of Central Youth Theatre.

The trio have enjoyed four years of sell-out shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and were Chortle Award winners in 2008 and 2013.

They found national fame with their BBC3 series *Badults*, which is now available on Netflix, an anarchic comedy about the misadventures of three flatmates.

Podcast

Pappy's also have a popular podcast called *Bangers And Mash* available via their www.pappyscomedy.com website.

Central Youth Theatre is hosting its third Hilarity Charity Gala at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Monday when a host of comedians, many familiar from top TV shows, present a rib-tickling night to raise money for the theatre group.

The line-up includes Birmingham stand-up Joe Lycett from 8 out of 10 Cats, Live at the Apollo, Never Mind the Buzzcocks and Celebrity Juice. Joe is a former Chortle Student Comedian of the Year and has been a guest for Scott Mills, Greg James and



Home gig in Wolverhampton for Pappy's comedy group as part of the Hilarity Gala

Nick Grimshaw on BBC Radio 1 and one of Radio 4's Just A Minute panel.

Also performing will be Adam Riches from Horrible Histories and The Detectorists; Nish Kumar from Have I Got News For You and Russell Howard's Stand Up Central; Spencer Jones of sit-com *Upstart Crow*; Ivo Graham of BBC Radio 5 Live's Fight-

ing Talk and ITV's *Elevenish*; and the evening will again be compered by Perrier award winner Daniel Kitson.

This year's gala is aiming to raise funds for the group's move into a new home in the former Co-Operative building opposite the Grand in Lichfield Street. Tickets are priced £17.50 and £22.50. Call 01902 429212.

Clare and all that jazz

AWARD-WINNING jazz singer, Radio 2 presenter and former Wolverhampton student Clare Teal will be accompanied by her 16-piece Hollywood Orchestra, led by top arranger and trumpeter Guy Barker, in concert at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday.

The UK's Queen of Swing will present *Twelve O'Clock Tales*, based around her latest album, because she says every song has a tale to tell, and as the midnight hour falls so do barriers to innermost thoughts and desires.

Her repertoire will include classics from the Great American and British Songbooks with music from Cole Porter, Billy Strayhorn, Rodgers and Hammerstein to Tim Rice and Sting. Clare became a familiar voice on radio as presenter of BBC Radio 2's Big Band Special. The Skipton lass discovered jazz via her grandmother's record collection and studied music at Wolverhampton Polytechnic (now university) before entering show business singing jingles. She has been associated with Big Band Special for 12 years.

Talking about her new album *Twelve O'Clock Tales*, which features the prestigious Hallé Orchestra, Clare said: "This is our most ambitious project to date and being accompanied by the Hallé is an absolute privilege. To be in a room surrounded by 93 incredibly talented musicians wondrously lifting these stunning arrangements right off the page before your eyes makes for a great day out - to actually then add your own voice to the story is a dream come true."

"We're thrilled to be releasing *Twelve O'Clock Tales* on our own label. It's truly liberating to be in control of what you want to record."

Tickets for Sunday's Grand concert range from £18 to £28. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.



'This is our most ambitious project to date'

One night only in concert line-up

THERE is a star-studded line-up for a series of one night concerts at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre (also see above).

Tonight (Thursday) the nation's Nancy, Oliver! star Jodie Prenger, is searching for romance in New York in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's *Tell Me On A Sunday*. Soul Legends on Friday features guest George 'Rock Your Baby' McCrae then 'People's Tenor' Russell Watson is in concert on Saturday. Clive John conjures 'the Man in Black' in the Johnny Cash Roadshow on Tuesday. Comedian Stu Francis, singer Maggie O'Hara and Steve Barclay as Max Miller are in Music Hall Memories on Wednesday.

Opera celebrates with Cav and Pag

WELSH National Opera is making a return visit to Birmingham Hippodrome to celebrate its 70th birthday with the classics *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci*.

The double bill of Cav & Pag, sung in Italian with English surtitles, will be at the Hippodrome on Thursday and Saturday, June 9 and 11. Each opera packs lots of drama and powerful music into just over an hour.

On Friday, June 10, WNO perform *In Parenthesis*, British composer Iain Bell's adaptation of the epic poem by David Jones about First World War soldiers who enter a magical wood amid the horrors of the Somme.

Singer Corinne's creative rebirth

CORINNE Bailey Rae was worried about not bringing out a record in six years. "I think you have to remind fans of who you are, no matter the length of gap," she says. "But I do feel really lucky the people who follow my music have kept in touch. I feel like there's still a good connection there."

Sophisticated new record *The Heart Speaks In Whispers* charts Bailey Rae's creative and personal rebirth following the death in 2008 of her husband, saxophonist Jason Rae.

She plays Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on July 7 as support to Lionel Richie before V Festival in August.

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CHOICE



Griff Rhys Jones

All New It'll Be Alright on the Night (ITV, 9pm)

Griff Rhys Jones returns to showcase another selection of hilarious film and TV outtakes rescued from the cutting-room. Among the stars whose gaffes are highlighted in this edition are Elton John, David Beckham and Ricky Gervais, and fumbled takes from the sets of Coronation Street, Mr Selfridge and EastEnders also make an appearance. Plus, mistakes from The One Show demonstrate the perils of live TV, and Jeremy Kyle has a painful encounter with a stray camera.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Athletics. **12.40** Athletics: Diamond League Rome Highlights. **1.40** Boxing: Women's World Championships. **2.40** Flog It! (R) **3.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.20** Film: Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. **5.40** Can't Touch This.

6.30 BBC News.

6.40 Regional Programme.

6.50 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz.

7.40 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Plus, Ore Oduba presents the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws.

8.30 The Musketeers. Paris is on the brink of starvation, prompting Grimaud and Feron to join forces with the Duke of Beaufort to win the King's business. However, to further their scheme, they must first frame the city's refugees for stealing much sought-after grain. As the conspirators' scapegoats are locked up in the Châtelet to await execution, D'Artagnan's hot temper also lands him a cell, and with one of their own now behind bars, the Musketeers race to secure the release of those who have been wrongly imprisoned. Meanwhile, spirited refugee Sylvie catches Athos' eye, vowing to prove her friends' innocence, but is he wise to trust her?

9.25 Casualty. Elle is pressed into a corner by Hansen, who wants to know who has been stealing drugs. After a shocking discovery, she is forced to choose between the good of the department and the people it. Robyn and David's morality tale proves a success, Rita pushes lain away until a threatening incident makes her seek his help, and Cal urges lain to try flirting with a patient, but his efforts go disastrously wrong.

10.25 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.45 Film: Die Hard with a Vengeance. (1995) Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis.

12.45 Film: The Children. (2008) **2.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: Finishing School. (1934) **7.20** Film: Hue and Cry. (1947) **8.40** Film: The Island at the Top of the World. (1974) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **1.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **1.30** Film: Pal Joey. (1957) Musical comedy, starring Frank Sinatra. **3.20** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **4.20** This Week's World. **5.00** UEFA Euro 2017 Qualifier, England v Serbia (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don reports on progress in his cutting garden and, now that plants are growing apace, gets on with seasonal maintenance tasks in the jewel garden. Frances Tophill continues her vegetable trials at RHS Rosemoor in Devon, when she plants out her allotment with the help of volunteers. Plus, a visit to Bodnant Garden in north Wales to find out how its volunteers are guiding visitors through the world famous Laburnum Arc. (R)

8.00 Dad's Army. The platoon takes part in an efficiency test in a bid to prove its worth, but mistakenly attacks a tea lady with onions from Jones's van. Guest starring Fulton Mackay. (R)

8.30 Film: Alice in Wonderland. (2010) A 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical land, having forgotten her previous adventures. She finds the tyrannical Red Queen has begun a reign of terror that can only be ended by slaying the monstrous Jabberwocky – a task she is seemingly destined to attempt. Tim Burton's fantasy adventure based on Lewis Carroll's novels, starring Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Anne Hathaway.

10.10 QI XL. Extended edition. The Rev Richard Cole, Sara Pascoe, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies try to answer host Stephen Fry's questions on L-themed larks – a "Liliable", as he calls it.

10.55 Versailles. Period drama depicting the decadent and turbulent early reign of Louis XIV. In the first edition, the young monarch seeks to assert his authority. George Blagden stars; (R) Inside Versailles.

11.55 Film: You Will Be My Son. (2011) Drama, with Nils Arestrup.

1.35 Film: Quatermass 2. (1957) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from pranks and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.00 Bang on the Money. Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odomoo host the final edition of the high-precision game show. This time, "The Arc Angels" from Northampton take on Mr England, Mr Birmingham and Miss Basingstoke, known collectively as "The Pageant People". The two teams battle it out to hit a specific target number "bang on" in a series of physical and mental challenges, and at the end of the contest, the most successful group could win up to £40,000. Last in the series.

8.00 You Saw Them Here First. The TV debuts of some of Britain's best-known faces.

9.00 All New It'll Be Alright on the Night. Griff Rhys Jones introduces more TV and film outtakes, including gaffes by Elton John, David Beckham and Ricky Gervais, and fumbled takes from Coronation Street and EastEnders.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Secrets of Growing Old. Documentary unravelling the secrets of ageing, including the changing attitudes to "growing old", with examples of people who defy preconceptions of what it means to be "old". (R)

11.20 Film: Carry On Cleo. (1964) A captured Briton is mistaken for a heroic swordsman and given the job of protecting Julius Caesar from assassins. Comedy, with Amanda Burrell.

1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** Transylvania Ultramarathon. **7.10** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Derby Day Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Derby: Channel 4 Racing from Epsom. Including the feature race at 4.30. **5.00** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.

6.00 Homes by the Med. Charlie Luxton returns to Spain to explore the Costa del Sol, one of the most-visited sections of the Andalusian coastline. While there, he meets a couple who have built an extraordinary modern home that is designed like a cruise ship, but on dry land. Previously seen on More4.

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.15 The Restoration Man. Architect George Clarke helps restoration novices Marco and Kath Walker, who have bought a pair of 17th and 18th-century cow barns in Wellington, Herefordshire. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Stephen Yeoman and Anita Findley, who want to build a cutting-edge, post-industrial house covered in rusty metal. However, their prominent riverside plot in the traditional and architecturally conservative area of South Downs means everyone will be watching. The project proves to be a real rollercoaster when the fitting of the rusty steel cladding goes wrong, cash flow problems threaten to bring work to a halt, and the couple announce that a baby is on the way. (R)

9.00 Film: 12 Years a Slave. (2013) Premiere. A free black man living in pre-Civil War New York is abducted and sold into slavery. He spends the next 12 years struggling to survive and maintain his dignity in the face of brutal treatment, while clinging to a desperate hope that he can return to his family. Oscar-winning historical drama based on Solomon Northup's autobiographical book, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor.

11.45 Film: Colombiana. (2011)

1.40 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.50** Posh Pawnbrokers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.25** Police Interceptors: Fast & Furious. (R) **5.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.25 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a couple who owe five months' rent on a flat in an affluent suburb of London, and later hit a snag when they try to seize a taxi over a £3,000 debt. In Bristol, county court bailiff Steve Wood finds out that unpaid rent is not the only problem when he attempts to repossess a corner shop. (R)

7.25 Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. One-off edition in which the High Court enforcement agents are caught in the crossfire of three bitter family disputes, including a debt-dodging man who pushes his panic-stricken mother over the edge. Plus, a family booted onto the streets at night by a ruthless aunt, and a man who won't engage with the agents and loses his car. (R)

8.20 5 News Weekend.

8.30 NCIS. The team suspects Gibbs's arch-nemesis is behind an explosion at a summit on global terror. Meanwhile, a grief-stricken Fornell struggles to deal with the fatal shooting of his ex-wife. American drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Pauley Perrette and Joe Spano.

9.25 NCIS. A covert identity created for one of Gibbs' undercover cases 20 years previously resurfaces after a murder victim is found to be using the alias. Meanwhile, Bishop becomes anxious at the thought of having to work incognito in the future. Starring Mark Harmon and Emily Wickersham.

10.20 NCIS: Los Angeles. A marine is thought to have killed himself after falling to his death from a rooftop bar, but Sam and Callen are brought in to re-evaluate the case after an appeal from his family. (R)

11.15 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a woman is shot dead in an apartment. (R)

12.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.20** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Francesco's Venice **8.00** D-Day: The Last Heroes **9.00** The Disappearance **10.45** The Richest Songs in the World **12.15** Biggest Band Break Ups and Make Ups **1.15** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.25** The Richest Songs in the World **3.55** Close ITVS

2.10 FYI Daily **2.15** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.00** Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **4.45** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **6.40** Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **7.40** FYI Daily **7.45** Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.15** The Cleveland Show **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Planet's Funniest Animals **ITV3**

11.20 Hidden Treasure **1.25** Lewis **3.25** Rosemary & Thyme **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Colditz **12.00** Bouquet of Barbud Weir **1.05** Northern Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**

11.00 Cycling: Tour Series Highlights **12.00** TT 2016: Steve and James' TT Road Trip **1.00** TT 2016: Qualifying Highlights **2.00** BRCC Formula 3 Highlights **3.00** Counting Cars **3.30** Storage Wars **5.30** British Touring Cars – Crashes and Smashes **5.45** Live French Open Tennis **7.00** TT 2016: Sidecar Superstars **8.00** TT 2016: Huchty Miracle Man **9.00** TT 2016: Superbike TT Race **10.00** Film: Road (2014) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10** Film: Road (2014) **12.15** Film: Fastest (2011) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** Film: Fastest (2011) **2.30** Highway Patrol **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**

11.30 How I Met Your Mother **12.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **2.00** Film: Rio (2011) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Predator (1987) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.15** Rude Tube **2.20** The Inbetweeners **3.15** Gogglebox **4.05** Angle Tribeca **4.25** New Girl **Film4**

11.00 0:10 to Yuma (1957) **1.00** New in Town (2009) **2.50** Rat Race (2001) **5.00** Parental Guidance (2012) **7.05** Vice Versa (1988) **9.00** Welcome to the Punch (2013) **11.00** Watchmen (2009) **2.10** Night of the Creeps (1986) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Soccer Aid 2016 (ITV, 6pm)
Coverage of the big game in aid of Unicef, which sees footballing heroes team up with celebrities for an England v Rest of the World match live from Old Trafford. Robbie Williams takes a step back from the pitch this time around, instead choosing to be Jose Mourinho's assistant manager, with help from Sunderland boss Sam Allardyce and coach Bradley Walsh. Their England team features former professionals such as David Seaman, Jamie Carragher and Robbie Fowler, plus stars including Jack Whitehall, Ollie Murs, Paddy McGuinness and John Bishop. Leicester City coach Claudio Ranieri manages the opposing side, which calls upon Ronaldinho, Dimitar Berbatov and other pros, lining up with captain Michael Sheen and a squad featuring Gordon Ramsay and Nicky Byrne.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.15 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Athletics: Birmingham Grand Prix. The Birmingham Grand Prix. 4.30 Celebrity Mastermind. (R) 5.00 Points of View. 5.15 Songs of Praise. 5.50 Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.35 BBC News.
7.00 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Ryan present the show from Scotland's Montrose Basin, an internationally important location for wild fowl. Anita ventures out onto the treacherous mud flats, while Matt visits the site of the UK's first air base, where enthusiasts are building replica First World War biplane. Naomi Wilkinson looks for golden eagles and other wildlife in Glenesk, and Adam Henson meets a dog psychologist. Tom Heap reports on how the result of the EU referendum could affect the British countryside. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Chenies Manor, near Amersham in Buckinghamshire, where members of the public bring along treasured antiques and collectibles. A young woman chooses a 21st birthday present from a collection of pocket watches kept in a biscuit tin and a train set that has been in its box for 70 years finally sees the light of day. Fiona reads a letter from a soldier to be opened in the event of his death, the relatives of a glassblower pay a moving tribute to their father's work and the update feature focuses on an ornate French plant stand first seen on the show in 1991. (R)
9.00 Wallander. The detective takes on his most challenging case as he searches for Linda's father-in-law. Last in the series.
10.30 BBC News.
10.50 Regional Programme.
11.00 Duran Duran at Eden. Alex Jones and Patrick Kielty introduce highlights of the band's concert for BBC Music Day from the Eden Project's biomes.
12.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.05 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Great British Garden Revival. (R) 7.05 This Farming Life. (R) 8.05 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.35 Countryfile. (R) 9.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) 12.00 Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) 12.30 Film: How the West Was Won. (1962) 3.00 Flog It! (R) 4.00 Gymnastics: Women's European Championships.
6.00 Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. The Red Arrows continue to have bad luck with the weather. The RAF's fastest jet appears in a display over Bournemouth and the pilots receive some shocking news. Last in the series. (R)
7.00 Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure. Ed Byrne and Dara O Briain retrace a journey taken by three men from Detroit during the 1940s, embarking on a 4,000-mile pan-American adventure. (R)
8.00 Top Gear. Chris, Matt and Eddie take Sharileen Spiteri, Seasick Steve and Tine Tempah on an SUV test in South Africa, and Damian Lewis is this week's Star in a Rallycross Car.
9.00 City in the Sky. New series. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry present a documentary exploring aviation, beginning with a look at the challenges of getting passenger planes into the air.
10.05 Top Gear Extra Gear. New series. Spin-off going behind the scenes on the motoring series. Sabine Schmitz presents a tour of her racing workshop, and comedian Chris Ramsey joins the team in the studio.
10.30 Stupid Man, Smart Phone. Russell Kane turns to his phone for help in climbing the Dolomite Mountains of Italy accompanied by internet star Humza Arshad, who has rarely set foot outside of London.
11.20 Flat TV. Tom is obsessed with his new neighbour and ends up breaking into her home, while Naz invents a new sauce.
11.45 Later... with Jools Holland. Extended edition of the music programme, featuring performances by Tame Impala, Biffy Clyro, Michael Kiwanuka, Moon Hooch, James Blake and Lera Lynn. Last in the series. (R)
12.45 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 1.40 Holy City. (R) 2.40 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.30 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.30 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.45 The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 8.00 Teen Titans Go! (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Griff's Great Britain. (R) 10.00 Peston on Sunday. 11.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.50 ITV News: Weather. 12.00 Planet's Got Talent. (R) 12.30 Fierce. (R) 1.30 Live French Open Tennis. Coverage of the 15th day's play at Roland Garros, featuring the men's singles final in the second Grand Slam tournament of the year, which was won by Stan Wawrinka last year. 5.45 Regional Programme ; Weather. 5.50 ITV News: Weather.
6.00 Soccer Aid 2016. Jose Mourinho and Claudio Ranieri manage the pro-celebrity teams for the charity football match, live from Old Trafford, as England take on the Rest of the World (Kick-off 8.00pm).
10.00 ITV News: Weather.
10.20 Fraud - How They Steal Your ID. Criminals are increasingly procuring bank and credit card details from online customers, which are then freely traded on the so-called 'dark web'. However, as this programme reveals, to succeed in doing this they must first get personal with their targets using a combination of data hacks, spam e-mail and malware - often coupled by posing as inquisitive bank staff via telephone calls. With reference to true-life occurrences, this programme outlines the various techniques used to swindle account holders of their cash. Narrated by Shaun Dooley. (R)
11.20 Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Dropping tokens down a choice of four chutes, they hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf - and the more they collect, the greater the prize fund. The player who has won the least amount is then eliminated, and the last one standing competes for a £10,000 jackpot. (R)
12.20 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming.
3.00 Motorsport UK. Action from Donington Park. 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Salvage SOS. 6.25 Salvage SOS. 6.50 Salvage SOS. 7.10 The King of Queens. (R) 7.35 The King of Queens. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 Film: Step Up 3. (2010) Dance drama sequel, starring Rick Malambri. 3.05 Location, Location, Location. (R) 4.05 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. 5.05 Film: The Jungle Book. (1967) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Phil Harris. 6.35 Channel 4 News.
8.00 Escape to the Chateau. New series. Series following a British family that buys a French chateau over the course of a year, as they restore the building after 40 years of standing empty. Dick Strawbridge and his partner Angel Adoree's new home has 12 acres of land, nine outbuildings, a walled garden and a moat - but it also has no electricity, heating or water, and proves to be a far more complicated DIY project than expected.
8.00 Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service. New series. The actress travels around the country to visit the Queen's official residences and meet people with royal appointments. The journey begins in Windsor Castle, where she finds out about Britain's oldest order of chivalry, the most Royal Her Strewer and unearths a box of treasure dating back to Elizabeth I. She also takes a trip up the Thames in the gilded barge Gloriana.
9.00 Film: About Time. (2013) Premiere. A single man gets the chance to turn his unhappy life around when his father reveals that they both have the ability to travel through time and change their personal history. He uses his newfound talent to try to improve his love life and win the heart of an American woman he has fallen for.
11.25 Film: Bad Teacher. (2011) A cynical, hard-drinking teacher hopes to seduce a wealthy substitute, making an enemy of a squeaky-clean colleague in the process. Comedy, with Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake.
1.10 Million Pound Properties. (R) 2.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.30 Win It Cook It. 5.00 The Restoration Man. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.40 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 6.50 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.05 Pets. 7.10 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.20 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.35 Little Princess. (R) 7.50 Pip Ahoy! (R) 8.05 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.45 Shimmer and Shine. 9.15 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.30 Lazy Town. (R) 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.30 Funniest Fails. Fails & Frops. (R) 11.00 Now That's Funny! (R) 12.00 Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder. 1.50 Film: Spies Like Us. (1985) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd. 3.45 Film: Wayne's World. (1992) Comedy, starring Mike Myers and Dana Carvey. 5.35 5 News Weekend. 5.40 Film: Six Days Seven Nights. (1998) A bickering journalist and pilot are stranded on a desert island, and face a series of dangers as they struggle to survive. Romantic adventure, with Harrison Ford and Anne Heche. Edited for language, nudity and sexual content. 7.40 Film: PS I Love You. (2007) Widowed Holly feels she cannot cope following the death of her husband. However, on her birthday, she receives a letter he wrote to her just before he died, encouraging her to live life to the full rather than languish in sorrow. This is just the first in a series of messages, each one sending her on wild misadventures and helping her to move on. Romantic drama based on Cecelia Aherm's novel, starring Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler and Lisa Kudrow.
10.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2015. Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of 2015, including Bruce Jenner's transition to Caitlyn and the Top Gear bust-up involving Jeremy Clarkson. (R)
12.55 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and live chat from the presenting team. 3.10 Inside the Murder Prison. Journalist Paul Connolly revisits footage from his investigations into some of the most intimidating prisons in the world. (R) 4.00 Shops & Robbers: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis meets a seasoned CCTV operator in Stafford, who catches a drug user after spotting him on camera. Plus, a control room operative looking out for shoplifters in Woking. (R) 4.50 Nick's Trick. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Good Swan. Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake 8.00 Perfect Pianists at the BBC 9.00 Secret Voices of Hollywood 10.30 Film: Storyville: Blackfish - The Whale that Killed (2013) 11.50 Natural World Special: Miracle in the Marshes of Iraq 12.50 Stonehenge: A Timewatch Guide 1.50 Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint 2.50 Good Swan, Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake 3.50 Close
ITV2
**11.25 Take Me Out 12.35 Love Island 1.05 Film: Beethoven (1992) 2.05 FYI Daily 2.10 Film: Beethoven (1992) 2.50 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) 3.50 FYI Daily 3.55 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) 4.45 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) 5.45 FYI Daily 5.50 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) 6.55 Film: The Wedding Planner (2001) 7.55 FYI Daily 8.00 Film: The Wedding Planner (2001) 9.00 Love Island 10.00 Family Guy 11.00 American Dad! 12.00 The Cleveland Show 1.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 1.55 Planet's Funniest Animals 2.20 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
**12.00 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) 2.00 Lewis 6.00 Midsomer Murders 10.05 Film: The Constant Gardener (2005) 11.05 FYI Daily 11.10 Film: The Constant Gardener (2005) 12.40 Secret Smile 2.00 Blue Murder 2.50 May the Best House Win 4.30 On the Buses 5.30 Judge Judy 5.50 ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
**11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship 5.40 Live French Open Tennis 8.00 Cycling: Critérium du Dauphine 9.00 TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race 1.00 Life on the Limit 11.10 FYI Daily 11.15 Life on the Limit 12.15 TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race 1.15 Hell on Wheels 2.15 Tommy Cooper 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.50 Teleshopping
E4
**1.30 The Big Bang Theory 6.30 Film: Twilight (2008) 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 11.00 The Inbetweeners 12.10 Gogglebox 11.50 The 100 3.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
Film4
1.00 Magic in the Water (1995) 3.05 That Dam Cat (1997) 4.50 Adams Family Values (1993) 6.35 Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) 9.00 The American (2010) 11.05 Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995) 1.10 The Wind Rises (2013) 3.45 Close********



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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Fatal Fiance, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman joins forces with a reporter to clear the name of her fiancé, who has become the prime suspect in a murder case. However, not everything is as it seems. Thriller, starring Jenny Wade, Jordi Vilasuso and Taylor Cole. (2016)

TUESDAY

Columbo: Double Exposure, ITV, 11.55pm

A maker of motivational films based on subliminal messages uses his expertise to plant a subconscious command in the mind of a rival to lure him to his death. However, any hopes of his getting away with it are dashed by the arrival of a certain shabby sleuth. Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, Robert Culp, Robert Middleton, Louise Latham and Arlene Martel. (1973)

WEDNESDAY

Bond of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman searches for answers after her husband is mysteriously murdered while trying to subdue a wild teenage house party on New Year's Eve. However, as she tries to find out the truth, she faces secrecy at every turn from the party-goers and their parents. Drama, starring Kim Raver, Greg Grunberg and Charlie McDermott. (2010)



Back to the Future Part III, Friday, ITV, 11pm

THURSDAY

Taken Back: Finding Haley, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman whose daughter goes missing spends years obsessing over finding her. She meets a girl who she becomes convinced is her child, and tries to prove that her parents are in fact kidnappers. However, when she cannot find any evidence, she resorts to an abduction of her own. Thriller, starring Moira Kelly and Amanda Tapping. (2012)

FRIDAY

Back to the Future Part III, ITV, 11pm

Time-travelling teenager Marty McFly is transported back to the days of the Wild West, where he strives to save his eccentric scientist friend Doc Brown from death at the hands of a villainous gunslinger. Final instalment in the sci-fi comedy trilogy, starring Michael J Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Mary Steenburgen and Thomas F Wilson. (1990)

The home nation will hope to be on the ball

It's finally time for the big kick-off, as it is customary the host nation gets proceedings under way tonight at the Stade de France.

If you thought that the pressure was high on this side of the Channel, spare a thought for Didier Deschamps French side who go into the tournament as favourites and with the hopes of an expectant nation on their shoulders.

The signs look good though – over the years, the hosts tend to perform well at the Euros, and the French have been victorious in each of the last two major tournaments that they have hosted, winning the European Championships back in 1984 and the World Cup in 1998.

Their current side is strong defensively, formidable in midfield with Paul Pogba, and rife with speedy attacking options.

The one thing they are perhaps missing is a true No.9, as Karim Benzema is suspended from international play.

One of France's greatest ever players, Thierry Henry, is confident

that the hosts will be at the national stadium in Paris when the winner is decided in exactly one month's time.

He told Sky Sports: "This is the big one for us. This is the big one for Deschamps and the big one for the team."

"We all know it is not easy to win a tournament at home, but we have done it twice. "We have won the Euros in 1984 and the World Cup in 1998 so we have a history of usually winning it when we have the tournament at home."

"France has a good team. The only thing I will say is we haven't played an official game for a long time, so that might be the question mark about the team at the moment."

"I think we have a great team and I'm not saying that because I am French, but I do think they have one of the best teams in Europe."

"I'll tip them to win and I hope they will."

First up for Les Bleus, who also triumphed at Euro 2000 in the Netherlands and Belgium, are Group A rivals Romania.

The Tricolori were defensively the best team in qualifying, conceding just two goals, but they were also the least prolific team that qualified, scoring just 11, so the French may have their work cut out breaking down their opponents this evening.

The tournament itself has been expanded to 24 teams this year, with matches taking place in 10 different host cities.

As far as the TV coverage goes, the BBC and ITV have split it down the middle once again.

Mark Pougatch has proven to be good replacement for previous ITV anchor Adrian Chiles, and the broadcaster has gone all out with its French theme for the Euros.

Promotional work has been done by Eric Cantona, while Emmanuel Petit, Christian Karembeu and Louis Saha have all joined the punditry team.

Ian Wright is also on the team, along with West Ham boss Slaven Bilic.

There is also a return to commentary on ITV for Andy Townsend after a year-long absence.



France take on Romania in Euro 2016, Friday, ITV, 7.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Reg

BBC1, 9pm

Jimmy McGovern is the writer who brought us the powerful dramas Hillsborough and Sunday, which was based on the events of Bloody Sunday. Now, he's tackling another real-life story, that of Reg Keys (Tim Roth), who in 2003 received the devastating news that his son Tom had been killed in Iraq. As his wife Sally (Anna Maxwell Martin) struggles with her grief, Reg tries to make sense of what has happened, and discovers that three weeks prior to Tom's death, the army had ordered a scale-down in weapons and communications. Convinced this was a mistake on the military's part, Reg makes the decision to stand as an independent candidate in opposition to the Iraq War in the next General Election – and he's going to do it in the constituency of Sedgefield, where he will be running against Prime Minister Tony Blair.

TUESDAY

Big Brother: Live Launch

Channel 5, 9pm

Emma Willis ushers in another diverse group of fame-seeking individuals who have been chosen to spend their summer invading the nation's living rooms. This year, the house has been made over

into a stark monochrome world. However, while everything may appear black and white, the new residents will not be alone – they will be under attack from a dark, unseen force designed to have a divisive effect on the entire housemates as they fall victim to paranoia and suspicion.

WEDNESDAY

Power Monkeys

Channel 4, 10pm

New series. Spin-off from the highly acclaimed comedy series Ballot Monkeys, following both sides of the EU referendum, along with prominent international politicians on Donald Trump's campaign plane and inside Vladimir Putin's Presidential office. Creators Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin highlight the follies and foibles of contemporary politics, writing much of the show in the hours leading up to transmission.

THURSDAY

DIY SOS: The Big Build

BBC1, 8pm

Let's face it, this occasional series holds few surprises these days. Each edition is basically the

same – a family struggling to cope in difficult circumstances has their living environment (and possibly their very existence) transformed by Nick Knowles and his team of property experts, with help from the local community. Despite this lack of diversity, viewers always end up shedding buckets of tears at the end – and it's this emotional impact that keeps us coming back for more. In recent months, there have been variations on the theme, with Princes William and Harry getting involved in creating new homes for war veterans, but we're expecting this edition to play out as usual. So, don't forget those handkerchiefs!



Big Brother: Live Launch, Tuesday, Channel 5, 9pm

New Blood

BBC1, 9pm

Anthony Horowitz's writing career has been one of mostly outstanding success, so when it was revealed that he was penning a new seven-part drama for the BBC, critics and fans alike couldn't wait to

see the results. The creator of Alex Rider and Foyle's War tells the story of trainee detective Rash Sayyad and Stefan Kowolski, a junior case worker at the Serious Fraud Office. They are thrown together by the discovery of the corpse of Mark Henson, one of a group of medical guinea pigs, and an investigation into David Leese.

FRIDAY

The Millionaire's Holiday Club

BBC2, 9pm

Imagine going on holiday to some of the most exclusive destinations money can buy? This two-part documentary goes away with millionaire clients on made-to-measure holidays and takes a behind-the-scenes at a luxury travel agents and their extraordinary efforts to try and provide seven-star holidays. We meet party girl Jane, who since selling her business 12 years ago, has decided to spend the rest of her days on holiday with partner Michael. The couple went on 12 in 2015, and begin this year with a sumptuous Christmas cruise around the Caribbean. Mervyn and Heather, on the other hand, just want a quiet life. Working all year on their Somerset fruit farm, they dream of 10 precious days away sitting on the beach and doing nothing during a stay at one of the most prestigious hotels in Jamaica. But this year is different.

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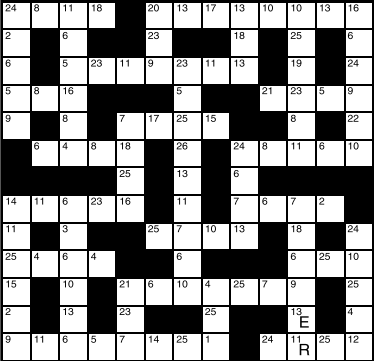
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BRAIN GYM No.380

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
W E H A C P J L S U M K Z
G Y X O B I T F R V Q D N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

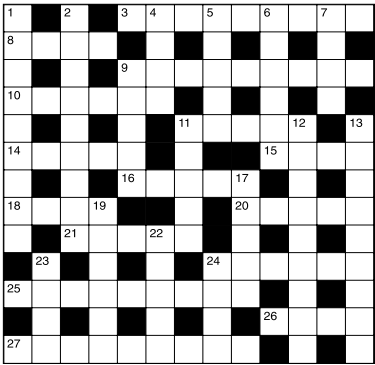
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 3. A very plain standard (9)
- 8. A never-to-be-repeated occasion (4)
- 9. Telling job for shopkeepers (9)
- 10. Ambled into a madhouse (6)
- 11. Yet people may sit in one (5)
- 14. Decoys, breaking the rules (5)
- 15. When it falls, it has the cheek to go on (4)
- 16. Gives out but sends the money right away (5)
- 18. Eats some biscuits upstairs (4)
- 20. They're used to make a stool (5)
- 21. Sprinkle water on a small bouquet (5)
- 24. Mounting a revolt? (6)
- 25. Usually it's the best of the entries (5,4)
- 26. Spare list (4)
- 27. Dancer all bare in confusion! (9)

Down

- 1. It's certain one shouldn't be so sceptical (9)
- 2. Sharp falls in sweet production? (4,5)
- 4. It's about time for a bit of news (4)
- 5. Take only what is right? (5)
- 6. It might be a latent gift (6)
- 7. Capital punishment? (4)
- 9. Breed fish, we hear (5)
- 11. I'm sly, perhaps, and slippery (5)
- 12. Put down and bore witness about it (9)
- 13. They impressed a new-spacer company (5,4)
- 17. It has to be negotiated in flight (5)
- 19. This column backs one up (6)
- 22. It counts as a hazard for rambles (5)
- 23. It could be for a Malayan vessel (4)
- 24. The horse ran round the ring (4)



Quick Clues:

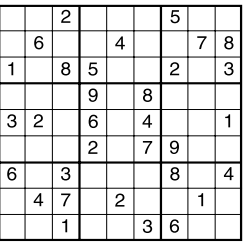
Across

- 3. Make sure (9)
- 8. Harvest (4)
- 9. Happy (9)
- 10. Inexperienced (6)
- 11. Concise (5)
- 14. Scholar (5)
- 15. Speed (4)
- 16. Killed (5)
- 18. Grain (4)
- 20. Attack (5)
- 21. Cold dish (5)
- 24. Deadly (6)
- 25. Highly pleased (9)
- 26. Stronghold (4)
- 27. Female tutor (9)

Down

- 1. Steep cliff (9)
- 2. Compasses (9)
- 4. Dull (4)
- 5. Come in (5)
- 6. Fond (6)
- 7. Thought (4)
- 9. Winds in rings (5)
- 11. Trade-mark (5)
- 12. A lie (9)
- 13. To air (9)
- 19. Eminent (5)
- 19. Indigenous (6)
- 22. Pale (5)
- 23. Roman emperor (4)
- 24. Minus (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	3	7	5	6	2	4	1	1
6	6	5	1	4	2	3	7	9
2	4	1	7	3	9	6	8	5
4	8	2	3	9	5	7	1	6
7	5	9	4	1	6	8	2	3
6	1	3	2	8	7	5	9	4
3	9	6	8	2	4	1	5	7
1	7	8	9	5	3	4	6	2
5	2	4	6	7	1	9	3	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Sash; 3 Reverend; 8 Peal; 9 Cheering; 11 Have a flutter; 13 Reside; 14 Wraith; 17 Man of letters; 20 Emphases; 21 Calm; 22 Steadies; 23 Stun. Down: 1 Sapphires; 2 Staves; 4 Exhale; 5 Electorate; 6 Elter; 7 Dogs; 10 Hand-to-hand; 12 Chessman; 15 Inexact; 16 Placate; 18 Apple; 19 Peas. QUICK - Across: 1 Clap; 3 Reliable; 8 Note; 9 Graduate; 11 Incandescent; 13 Credit; 14 Stupor; 17 Affectation; 20 Eviction; 21 Mere; 22 Tutelage; 23 Busy. Down: 1 Convince; 2 Article; 4 Earnest; 5 Indication; 6 Brawn; 7 Even; 10 Incidental; 12 Greenery; 15 Plateau; 16 Strong; 18 Feint; 19 Feat.

Thinking space



Quiz

- 1. Of what is Ikebana the Japanese art?
- 2. Who won his third European 100m title in Helsinki in 1994?
- 3. To whom did Hampton Court Palace belong before Henry VIII moved in?
- 4. On which Greek island is St John said to have written the NT Book of Revelation?
- 5. Who wrote the novel Jane Eyre?
- 6. From which country did Algeria declare independence in 1962?
- 7. Of which metal is magnetite an ore?
- 8. Of what is there a special (1905) and a general (1915) theory?
- 9. What type of animal is a chinchilla?
- 10. Of what nationality was the philosopher Spinoza?

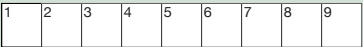
Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Zambia; 2 Ralph Vaughan Williams; 3 Ben Macdui; 4 A fish; 5 Rob Roy; 6 Golf; 7 St Andrew; 8 Leprosy; 9 A dog; 10 Great Britain.
- Niner: LEGIONARY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 324569 gives a clergyman,
- 85196 gives a manservant,
- 67194 gives a craftsman.



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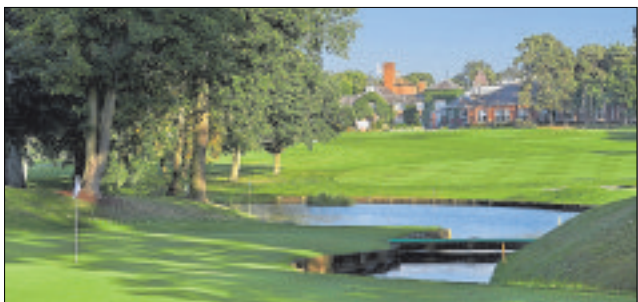
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AS a novice golfer I can't pretend that I did not feel humbled as we made our way up the sweeping driveway to the famous Belfry Hotel & Resort.

With championship golf courses and several tourist awards I knew we were in for a treat.

With just a few golf lessons under my belt – so no Rory McIlroy – I was way out of my depth. But there was no way I was going to miss the chance to say that I had actually played at the Belfry. Of course it is not just golf that would attract you to this superb hotel at Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield, its tourism awards are well earned.

Do not be intimidated by its name and reputation, grand as it is, it has a knack of making you feel right at home. My husband and I arrived one Friday afternoon and after looking around realised just how much this holiday resort has to offer.

Of course there is the world-famous golf –

Sue Attwater tees off

more of that later – but there is so much more to attract the whole family. There are no shortage of activities and places to eat for the young ones and a nightclub across the drive for the slightly older ones. For the woman in your life – and the sport is becoming more popular with the fairer sex – there is also the spa.

You must treat yourself to a champagne tea, the ultimate in luxury. Our charming waiter James supplied us with a wonderful tiered stand full of sandwiches and cakes – it was like being at the Ritz.

We were saving the golf until the following morning so on the Friday we headed for the relaxing spa with the Fire and Ice Experience – 90 minutes of sheer bliss and if you are brave enough the ice cold bucket experience. He did, I didn't and I was quite glad after seeing the shocked look on his face.

Totally relaxed, we sat on the balcony and watched as the more experienced golfers

tackle the 18th hole on the PGA course. It was easy to relax in the sumptuous room – the lady on reception said we would go 'wow' when we saw it and she was not wrong. The bedroom area was huge with a large en suite and dressing area and adjoining living room. Then, to step out onto the huge veranda with the lovely views – this is the life!

Nightclub

Time to settle there with a glass of wine and watch the others tackle the course and maybe get some tips for the morning. Relaxed and changed we headed off to the Ryder Grill restaurant for a delicious a la carte meal and I could forget the calories as I would work them off on the course the next morning.

Afterwards, if you fancy strutting your stuff, just pop across to the very popular Bel Air Nightclub & Lounge. Entrance is included in many weekend packages. Then after breakfast that was it – what I was waiting for. We headed out to the Derby golf course, the only one of the three where you don't need to have

a handicap. As I explained when booking my only handicap was that I couldn't play!

There is also a driving range if you want to try out your skills first. For the little ones there is a small course that replicates some of the famous holes – like the one at Kiawah Island from the 1991 Ryder Cup.

The site has three full courses: The Brabazon, Ryder Cup in 1985, 1989, 1993 and 2002, PGA National, another for experienced players only and the third course The Derby the one we played.

It is available to all standards of players and is roughly 1,000 yards shorter than the other two. Even so, the full 18 holes are a big test of skills and stamina but we did both manage a par on one of the holes. I have not stopped raving about it since!

The Belfry has been nominated for three awards at the World Travel Awards 2016, having been crowned as England's Leading Resort last year. So if you are looking to get away with the family you can't go wrong.

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The ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail inclusive breaks – Three days

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For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the evening performance (meal not included).

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket and the option to upgrade plus an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.



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Opportunity to purchase a fine period property

A huge period three-storey detached family home which has been expensively improved and re-appointed, 'Daycot', Stream Road, Kingswinford, lies gently elevated beyond a large full width driveway.

In a highly regarded address, with an extensive and beautifully laid out rear garden, this six double-bedroomed residence is for sale through Taylors at £549,000.

In all, this sale is giving an exceptional opportunity to purchase a fine period property of superb quality throughout, within a highly desirable and convenient location.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Daycot House displays a distinctive style and provides immense extended accommodation over three floors and boasts many delightful features which combine the original character of the property with expensive modern day appointments."

The accommodation provides a fine reception hall and two gallery-style landings, all of which have quality light oak finish doors opening to the majority of rooms.

The huge rear garden is a further superb feature of the property, having been expensively landscaped to include extensive lawns, various patio areas, including a barbeque area with wooden gazebo, a stream water feature and koi pool.

"Certainly not an opportunity to be missed and a full personal inspection is essential for the size and quality of the high specification accommodation to be appreciated," says a spokesman for the selling agent.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, a fine reception hall with stairs off, a light wood style floor, and quality 'light oak' finish doors off as well as a guest WC.

The large sitting room has a stained/leaded window to the side, a log burner in a period-style fireplace surround and light wood-style floor. The formal dining room has superb views of the rear garden, French doors, a patterned stained/leaded window to the side, a feature 'Louis' style fireplace surround and wood-style floor.

The breakfast room/snug has French-style doors to the rear garden and light wood-style floor with a large pantry/store off.

The extended bespoke luxury kitchen has high gloss finish units with solid wood-block surmounted work tops including a large 'island' unit which includes an integrated touch-control electric hob with stainless steel illuminating cooker hood above, sink with instant 'steaming hot' water tap, integrated dishwasher, double fan-assisted oven. There is also a potential en-suite which is currently used as a kitchenette.

The six double bedrooms, four en-suites and a family bathroom are laid out over the first and second floors.

There is a full width driveway, a large garage and huge rear garden which has been completely re-designed.

KEY FEATURES

KEY FEATURES

Large full width driveway

Extensive beautiful rear garden

Expensively improved

Six double bedrooms

4/5 en-suites

KINGSWINFORD £549,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors
TEL: 01384 401777
EMAIL: kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk



Taylors

the property professionals

Kingswinford
01384 401777

Brierley Hill
01384 265265

Sedgley
01902 880888

Also at **Stourbridge** and **Halesowen**



HIMLEY, School Road

A DECEPTIVE MODERN SEMI-DETACHED DORMER PROPERTY which is very well placed within the sought after Himley Village, with a LONG ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN backing onto the brook/stream with fields beyond, a position enhancing the GENEROUS layout of THREE BEDROOMS accommodation. EPC E

£234,950



COSELEY, Flamborough Way

Extremely well presented DETACHED property in popular cul-de-sac location in Coseley. Well appointed family home boasts, entrance hall, living room, dining room, utility room, guest W/C, conservatory, FOUR BEDROOMS, en-suite to master, family bathroom, enclosed landscaped rear garden, driveway to front, garage, central heating and double glazing. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £229,950



WALL HEATH, Brooklyn Grove

A SUBSTANTIAL SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME which offers a SUPERBLY SPACIOUS and ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED layout, with EXCELLENT HOME OFFICE/ PLAYROOM and THREE REALLY GOOD BEDROOMS. With FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a level/ private rear garden. EPC D

£209,950



LOWER GORNAL, Sandstone Close

SCANDANAVIAN STYLE. Gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home constructed to first quality specification & in exemplary order. Designed to match adjacent property with minimal energy/running costs the accommodation includes; hall, cloakroom, lounge, 19ft 'hub of the house' dining kitchen, garden room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, garden, GARAGE (rear), additional parking. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £189,950, NOW £185,000



WOODSETTON, Pool Street

Conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated (combi boiler), double glazed & cavity wall insulated detached with LARGE GARAGE (opposite). Presented in exemplary order, accommodation includes; hallway, inner hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen with integrated oven, hob and extractor. Three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, Extensive loft. Block paved drive, magnificent rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Price: £180,000



DUDLEY, Selborne Road

With views of the nearby Buffery Park, This TRADITIONAL & EXTENDED, DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Guests W.C, THREE BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Separate W.C, Driveway, Garage & HUGE GARDEN. EPC F

£179,950



KINGSWINFORD, Granville Drive

A BEAUTIFULLY REFURBISHED SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW within this sought after address, well placed for local shops and offering an attractively re-appointed layout which is READY TO MOVE INTO, plus a long driveway, GARAGE and an attractive garden. EPC TBA

New price

Offers in Excess of £170,000



WOODSETTON, Sedgley Road

Meticulously maintained, FREEHOLD, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached presented in exemplary order throughout. comprising; hallway, store, 15'5" lounge, refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of 'Avanti' units with many fitted appliances, CONSERVATORY beyond. Three bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Delightful 'low maintenance' rear garden with brick GARAGE and driveway beyond. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £173,000, NOW £169,950



NETHERTON, Hockley Lane

UNEXPECTEDLY AVAILABLE. Plot 1 'Yew Tree Rise' is in an EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION of SEVEN LUXURY 'NEW BUILD' 3 & 4 BEDROOM HOMES by respected local developers HORGAN HOMES and includes both SEMI DETACHED AND DETACHED FAMILY HOMES. Thoughtfully designed and WELL APPOINTED. EPC: TBC

£165,000

Taylors

the property professionals

Kingswinford
01384 401777

Brierley Hill
01384 265265

Sedgley
01902 880888

Also at **Stourbridge and Halesowen**

New



SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road, (off Charnwood Avenue)

INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS! Imposing gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed SEVEN BEDROOM detached residence ideal for the extended family (possibilities of creating a granny suite/ institutional use subject to necessary regulations?) at head of quiet cul-de-sac with DISTANT VIEWS. G/F- Entrance vestibule, hall, THREE LARGE RECEPTION ROOMS, dining kitchen, pantry, lobby cloaks and utility room, two bedrooms (one Ensuite). 1/F - three bedrooms (two en suite) and bathroom, separate toilet. 2/F - two double bedrooms. LG/F - study and store. Large garage, sheltered garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the Region of £365,000



LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

Imposing, EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached upon corner plot within walking distance of the village. Maintained to an exemplary standard, the accommodation includes; hall, lounge, dining room, utility room, cloakroom, kitchen with clear breakfast room section, Gallery landing, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. DOUBLE GARAGE, & securely gated LARGE CARPORT, gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £320,000



SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

Under construction by the Woodbourne Group, an exciting new development of gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed BUNGALOWS so conveniently situated for Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. First Phase released - Plots 1, 2, 3 and 11, Three designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £264,500 - Further details with Agents Sedgley Office. SAP: T.B.A. Further details with Sedgley Office.

PRICES FROM £218,500

New



DUDLEY, Woodall Grange, Wellspring Gardens

ONLY CONSTRUCTED OCTOBER 2014 already tremendously upgraded PRESTINE and EXCEPTIONALLY STYLISH gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed home upon poplar development within walking distance of so many Town Centre amenities. The accommodation includes reception hall, fitted cloakroom, breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, transverse living/dining room THREE BEDROOMS (principle room with en suite), bathroom, landscaped rear garden, parking. EPC

Offers in the Region of £160,000

New



KINGSWINFORD, Park Street

A STUNNING & DECEPTIVE PERIOD MID TERRACE HOME with THREE BEDROOMS, which is ready to move into and superbly located within Kingswinford's Old Quarter, offering WELL PRESENTED & EXPENSIVELY RE-APPOINTED accommodation and a long rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain

£159,950



LOWER GORNAL, Bird Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Well proportioned centrally heated and double glazed property located in the popular area of Lower Gornal, Dudley. This semi detached family home benefits from porch, through lounge, conservatory, kitchen, garage, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, enclosed rear garden and drive to front. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £159,950



LOWER GORNAL, Grafton Gardens, Straits

Absolutely outstanding, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed 'semi detached' that has been transformed in recent years conveniently situated within walking distance of country park comprising hallway, 20' through living/dining room, conservatory, refitted kitchen, inner hallway, 'play room'. Three bedrooms (two with Avanti fitted units), bathroom, Garden, parking, store. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £155,000

New



PENSNETT, High Street

BOASTING A LARGE EXTENSION which creates SPACIOUS LIVING SPACE including an enhanced kitchen and lounge, This THREE BEDROOM, HOME is situated closely Russell's Hall Hospital and also comprises: Dining Room, Bathroom, LARGE REAR Garden. EPC:

£144,950

New



BRIERLEY HILL, Planet Road

THIS RATHER LOVELY & BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Large Hall, Superb Sitting Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Well Appointed Shower Room with Separate W.C, Garage & FANTASTIC GARDEN. EPC:

£139,950



PENSNETT, School Street

This MODERN STYLE, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY would make a SUPERB FAMILY HOME & comprises: Hall, Lounge, Spacious Breakfast Kitchen, Guests W.C, Three Family Bedrooms, White Suite Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Fantastic Garden. EPC C

£139,950



SWINDON, Winston Road

Nestled within the heart of sought after Swindon Village, close to friendly village shops and delightful canal side walks, this ATTRACTIVE MID MEWS offers WELL APPOINTED accommodation which includes TWO BEDROOMS. With LONG BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY and an enclosed rear garden EPC D

£139,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Terrace Street

THIS DELIGHTFULLY DECORATED, END TERRACE HOME would make a lovely FIRST TIME BUY & is available for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Encompassing: Hall, Stylish Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Contemporary Bathroom, Pleasant Garden. EPC D

New price

£129,950



SEDGLEY, North Springfield

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Situated in the sought after area of Sedgley in Dudley, this mid-terrace property boasts living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, FOUR BEDROOMS, shower room, enclosed rear garden, drive way to front, central heating and double glazing. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950



GORNAL WOOD, Brook Street

A immaculately presented traditional detached property located in the extremely popular area of Lower Gornal, Dudley. This superb started home benefits from living room, dining room, kitchen-diner, TWO BEDROOMS, double glazing and gas central heating, enclosed rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £119,950



PENSNETT, Tiled House Lane

This DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS & LARGE, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lovely Lounge, MODERN BREAKFAST KITCHEN, Guests Cloakroom, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Bathroom, Driveway & Substantial Rear Garden. EPC: D

New price

£99,950



HOLLY HALL, Stourbridge Road

THIS PERIOD STYLE, TWO BEDROOM HOME offers IMMENSELY SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION with TWO MASSIVE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS & TWO FANTASTIC RECEPTION ROOMS. Also comprising: Hall, Kitchen, Four Piece Suite Bathroom & Attractive Garden. EPC:

£94,950



LANESFIELD, Mount Road

MINING SEARCH AVAILABLE. A good-sized semi-detached property that offers plenty of potential. Situated in a popular area of Lanesfield, Wolverhampton, this family home benefits from: entrance hall, living room, kitchen-diner, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, enclosed rear garden, garden to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: F SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £96,950, NOW £90,000



TIPTON, Wood Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Superbly presented first floor maisonette situated within walking distance of Tipton centre. This fully modernised property benefits from living room, kitchen, bedroom, shower room, central heating and double glazing, garage and parking. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £69,950, NOW £64,950

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

Follow us on: f



Exceptionally spacious four-bed home

This exceptionally spacious gas centrally heated property is on the market in Hopyard Lane, Gornal Wood, Dudley.

Offers in the region of £329,950 are invited by the estate agent Taylors for this uPVC double glazed, detached property.

Briefly the property includes an imposing hall, fitted cloaks, sitting

DUDLEY

£329,950

<<<

room with bay (and first quality Minster fireplace), magnificent dining kitchen with granite worksurfaces and contemporary oak units/ many integrated appliances, utility and dining room.

To the ground floor there is a conservatory addition, affording further living space.

Bedroom one comes with fitted wardrobes and shower room, three further generous bedrooms, bathroom, large garage and secluded gardens.

Call 01902 880888 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



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**Landlords
Forum**



Thursday 9th June 2016, 6.30pm

Museum of Cannock Chase, Valley Road, Hednesford, Staffs, WS12 1TD

If you are a Landlord with property to rent in the Cannock Chase Area, why not attend the next meeting of the Landlord Forum?

Guest Speakers for the evening are:

JONATHAN CLEMENTS

PricewaterhouseCoopers - PwC

Update on changes to taxation in the private rented sector

Department for Work and Pensions

Universal Credit - Find out the facts

For more information contact

Julie Cope/Dee Kalirai tel: 01543 462621

**Housing Options Team, Civic Centre,
Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG**

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

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01902 319191

K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 30TH JUNE 2016

Nos. 153 - 163 DUDLEY STREET

c/o HIGHFIELDS ROAD, BILSTON

Prominently situated parade of Shops with forecourt parking and space for additional parking at rear. Separate access to First Floor - Lounge - Kitchen - Shower Room - Two Bedrooms. Freehold and with Vacant Possession of whole. EPC: TBC

Guide £140,000 / £150,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3rd & 4th JUNE @ 10.15 a.m.

10 BROAD STREET, BILSTON

Investment Property

Current Income £14,560 p.a.

An impressive detached period property within easy walking distance of the Town Centre, offering three spacious Flats - double gated access to side and rear providing off-road parking. EPC's: 10 = F34, 10A = E46, 10B = G17

Guide: £110,000 / £120,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3rd & 4th JUNE @ 11.15 a.m.

**109 THE LINDENS
NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON**

A First floor Flat pleasantly situated with outlooks to front over Newbridge Crescent and grounds to rear. Communal access, private Entrance Hallway, Lounge with corner window and Juliet balcony, fitted Kitchen with dining recess, Two Double Bedrooms, smart white Bathroom with shower unit over bath. Outside: Garage No. 105 and communal grounds

EPC: D61

Guide: £48,000 / £53,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3rd & 4th JUNE @ 10.30a.m.

**6 GAINSBOROUGH DRIVE,
PERTON**

A modern purpose built Ground Floor Flat in good location with attractive approach via footpath and lawned area
Entrance Hall, 19ft. Lounge with bay window, Kitchen, Inner Hall,
Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom. Outside: Store, Garage, fully enclosed Rear Garden.
All Mains Services. EPC: E51

Guide: £63,000 / £68,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
3rd & 4th JUNE @ 11.30a.m.

**SITE WITH PLANNING
PERMISSION
LAND TO R/O 10 BROAD
STREET, BILSTON**

Most conveniently located for access to Town Centre an area of land with frontage to Smith Street and having the benefit of

Outline Planning Permission for erection of a two-storey building containing

FOUR APARTMENTS

Planning Ref. 16 / 00100 / OUT

Guide: £30,000 / £35,000

FOR SALE BY PUBIC AUCTION

(subject to Conditions and prior sale)

**on THURSDAY 30th JUNE 2016
@ 6.30 p.m.**

**at the Ramada Park Hall Hotel, Park Drive,
Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton**

Please Register for Catalogue



VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK. PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

LOWER GORNAL

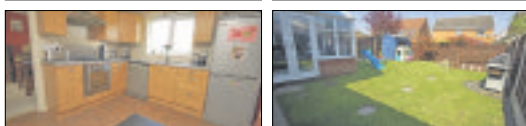
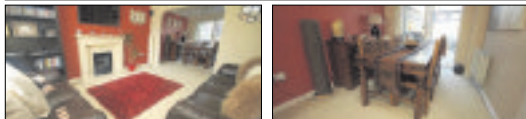


Prospect Road,

- A rare opportunity near Gornal Village
- **SPLIT LEVEL BUNGALOW**
- Bedrooms downstairs
- Balcony with fantastic
- Low maintenance garden
- Opportunity to create ideal home
- **FIVE bedrooms**
- **EPC Rating - TBC**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £249,950

COSELEY

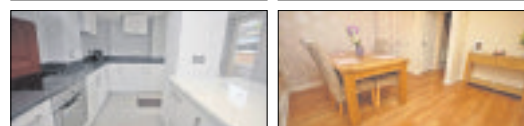


Siddons Road,

- A Modern detached home
- **THREE bedrooms**
- Lounge and dining room
- Conservatory
- Utility and downstairs wc
- En-suite and bathroom
- Garage and driveway
- **EPC Rating - D**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £214,950

KINGSWINFORD



Beech Road,

- A beautiful terrace property
- Prominent Kingswinford location
- Lounge and dining room
- **THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS**
- Modern kitchen with 'island'
- **EPC Rating - D**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £149,950

LOWER GORNAL

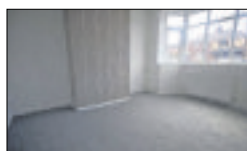


Grafton Gardens, The Straits

- A well presented semi-detached
- Favoured 'Straits' address
- **THREE bedrooms**
- Open plan accommodation
- Lounge and office/dining room
- A beautiful private garden
- Ideal family home
- **EPC Rating - D**

£150,000

UPPER GORNAL

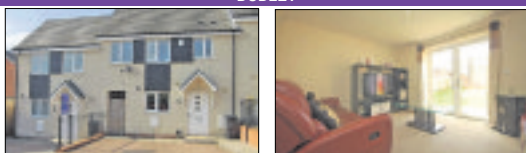


Eve Lane,

- A traditional semi detached
- Central for Sedgley & Gornal
- Lounge and dining room
- Brand New Kitchen & bathroom
- **THREE bedrooms**
- Large driveway
- Private/good size garden
- **EPC - D**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,950

DUDLEY



Bradfield Way,

- A MODERN townhouse
- Approximately 3/4 years old
- Under NHBC guarantee
- breakfast kitchen
- **THREE bedrooms**
- Well maintained rear garden
- **IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY**
- **EPC Rating - B**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £139,950

UPPER GORNAL



Pale Street,

- A 2 bedroom semi-detached
- MODERN dining kitchen
- Recently built conservatory
- Wet room and utility
- Two double bedrooms
- Fantastic size rear garden
- Ideal **FIRST TIME BUY**
- **EPC Rating - E**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £127,500

COSELEY



Skidmore Road,

- *** BRAND NEW development**
- *** Two bedrooms**
- *** Luxury kitchen & bathroom**
- *** Allocated parking**
- *** Rear gardens**
- *** Ideal first time buy**
- *** Flexible mortgages available**
- *** EPC rating- B**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,950

TIPTON



Waring Close,

- A MODERN style semi
- In need of cosmetic updating
- Pleasant cul-de-sac location
- Lounge/diner & kitchen
- **CONSERVATORY**
- **THREE bedrooms**
- **NO UPWARD CHAIN**
- **EPC Rating - D**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £134,950

HIGH HOLBORN, SEDGLEY



Holborn House,

- A most attractive duplex apartment
- Situated in the heart of Sedgley Town
- Uniquely designed layout over 2 floors
- Feature double height ceilings
- One bedroom and two bathrooms
- Another reception room (office/playroom)
- Communal **ROOF TERRACE**
- Secure parking area
- **AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY**
- **EPC Rating - C**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £119,950

COSELEY



Pickrell Road,

- A beautiful family home with 3 bedrooms
- spacious accommodation
- Open plan dining kitchen
- Lounge and conservatory
- Large rear garden
- Good size driveway
- Upgraded to a high spec
- **EPC Rating - C**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £117,950

BRAMFORD ESTATE, DUDLEY



Littleworth Avenue, Woodsetton

- A well presented semi-detached home
- Popular Bramford Estate
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- **OPEN PLAN** lounge dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- **THREE bedrooms**
- Beautiful rear gardens
- Mining report on file
- **EPC Rating - E**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

BILSTON



Steven Drive,

- A well presented town house
- **TWO bedrooms**
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Open plan lounge
- Modern kitchen
- Approx 19 years old
- Landscaped rear garden
- **IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY**
- **EPC Rating - TBC**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

COSELEY



Vicarage Road,

- A well presented semi-detached
- **IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY**
- Prominent location in Roseville Village
- Open plan kitchen/diner
- **TWO** goof size bedrooms
- Pleasant rear garden
- Driveway parking
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- **NO UPWARD CHAIN**
- **EPC Rating - E**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £94,950

COSELEY



364 Birmingham New Road,

- *** Ground floor apartment**
- *** Beautifully presnted**
- *** Modern build**
- *** Dining Kitchen**
- ***TWO bedrooms**
- *** En-suite and bathroom**
- *** Ideal first time buy**
- *** EPC Rating - D**

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £91,950

www.bakersproperty.co.uk

LOWER GORNAL BIRD STREET



OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY JUNE 4th - 10.30 - 12.00 Noon

One pair new semi detached homes completed to the highest specification and carpeted throughout. situated in a popular residential area within walking distance of the village centre. Luxury accommodation - GROUND FLOOR - hall - cloakroom - lounge - fitted kitchen with full integrated appliances

FIRST FLOOR - Two bedrooms - bathroom

SECOND FLOOR - Bedroom and en-suite

External - Front elevation parking - rear fully fenced

**Landscaped gardens
£149,950**

residential sales & lettings

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PROPERTY



Traditional family detached lies in prime location

Hicks Hadley is marketing this well proportioned traditional style detached family home in a prime location.

The property in Kent Road, Halesowen, has an asking price of £395,000.

It benefits from a lounge, separate dining room, fitted dining kitchen,

HALESOWEN

£395,000

five double bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. The property has a large double garage with utility area and downstairs toilet off, gas central heating, double glazing and

well-stocked enclosed rear garden. The fitted kitchen/breakfast room has an extensive range of units with pine door, cupboards and drawers beneath, complementary work surface areas with inset stainless steel single drainer sink and mixer tap.

Call 0121 585 6667 or visit the website at www.hickshadley.com

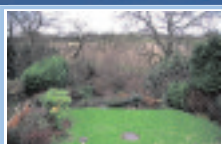
Wakeman

team
teamprop.co.uk



73 LONGMEADOW DRIVE, SEDGLEY O/A £279,950

- Well proportioned three bedroom family home
- Enviably positioned on the popular Northway housing estate
- Extended breakfast kitchen, lounge, sitting room with dining area
- Wide garden plot with wooded area and open fields to the rear
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



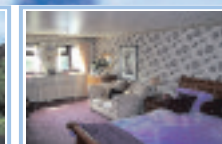
2 CHASE ROAD, GORNAL WOOD £265,000

- Detached chalet style residence occupying a pleasant location
- Ground floor bedroom & shower room, two first floor bedrooms & bathroom
- Improved & attractively presented accommodation with conservatory
- Ample off road parking and large level rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



10 WOODCROFT AVENUE, TIPTON £249,950

- Substantially extended & improved detached house
- Pleasantly situated in a well established residential area
- Large master bedroom with ensuite shower room, two further bedrooms
- Large breakfast kitchen. 'L' shaped lounge, dining area
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



75 NORTHWAY O/A £179,950

- Well presented link detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Through lounge & dining room
- Situated on popular Northway housing estate
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



ST JAMES STREET, LOWER GORNAL £189,950

- Five new build detached bungalows with two bedrooms
- Traditionally built to a high standard with two parking spaces per plot
- Fully fitted kitchen with breakfast bar, fully fitted family bathroom
- Spacious living/dining room with french window opening onto landscaped garden
- High levels of insulation and choice of fitted carpets



6 GREENSLADE ROAD, SEDGLEY O/A £185,000

- Link detached house on popular Northway housing estate
- Extended accommodation with three bedrooms
- Through living room & dining area, breakfast room/utility
- Ample off road parking and private rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



139 SEDGLEY ROAD £170,000

- WOODSETTON
- Three bedroom detached house
- In need of updating works
- Excellent opportunity for purchaser
- Generous sized plot
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING F



245 WRENS NEST ROAD £159,950

- DUDLEY
- Modern three storey house
- Four bedrooms
- Spacious accommodation
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC



28 DALESWOOD PARK, HALESOWEN £159,950

- Impressive two bedroom brand new fully furnished park home
- Spacious 'L' shaped living room and dining area, fitted kitchen
- Master bedroom with fitted furniture and large walk in dressing room
- Attractive rear garden with views over adjoining woodland
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



12A GOSPEL END STREET £134,950

- SEDGLEY
- Edwardian semi detached house with lots of character
- Well proportioned two bedroom accommodation
- Conveniently positioned close to the centre of Sedgley
- Excellent views at the front towards Shropshire Hills
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



64 KINGS ROAD, SEDGLEY £119,950

- Well maintained and improved terraced house
- Attractively presented deceptive accommodation
- Two reception rooms, ground floor wc & first floor bathroom
- Gas central heating and upvc sealed unit double glazing
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



108 METROPOLITAN LOFTS £100,000

- DUDLEY
- Duplex apartment-origially two bedrooms
- Mezzanine bedroom
- Secure underground parking
- Close to Dudley town centre
- SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

Sedgley Office
01902 885894

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Fifty years of boxer engine

Fuji Heavy Industries, the manufacturer of Subaru automobiles, this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of its horizontally-opposed 'Boxer' engine, so called due to the engine's pistons resembling the punch-counterpunch motion of a boxer's fists.

Subaru's signature Boxer engine was introduced on the Subaru 1000 compact passenger car on 14 May 1966.

Since then, Subaru has sought to maximise the advantages of its Boxer engines and continuously enhanced them to power its vehicles to this day.

Today, every vehicle sold by Subaru is fitted with a Boxer engine, with total production over the last 50 years topping 16 million units.

Compact

With the horizontally-opposed design of Subaru's Boxer engine, the opposing pistons work to cancel out the inertia force of each other, resulting in less vibration and superb rotational balance to provide smooth acceleration right up to the highest engine speeds.

Its compact form also allows it to be fitted lower in the engine bay than a conventional four-in-line engine, lowering the centre of gravity.

The Boxer engine is one of the key components that comprise Subaru's distinctive Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive (AWD) system. Subaru Symmetrical AWD offers a combination of superior stability and traction, with the symmetrical layout of the drivetrain allowing a balanced weight distribution, aided by the longitudinally-mounted Boxer engine. This synergy between engine and drivetrain delivers excellent performance, both in terms of high speed stability and under cornering. Earlier this year, the Japanese brand announced the production of the 15 millionth Subaru vehicle equipped with its famous Symmetrical AWD system.

To find out more about Subaru's Boxer engines, visit www.subaru.co.uk

10/10 Jaguar XF Luxury 3.0 V6 Automatic Paddle Shift 49k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Sat Nav, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £13995 / POA	10/10 Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDI Sport 60k, Mauve with White Roof, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £5495 / £28 Per Week
09/09 Mazda MX-5 1.8i Roadster Coupe Convertible (Option Pack) 2dr, ONLY 22k Miles, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Heated Seats, E/roof, E/Windows, High Spec Car £9495 / £48 Per Week	11/11 Ford Focus Sport 1.6 TDCi Diesel 5dr, 79k, Black, Alloys, Sat Nav, CD, E/Windows £5295 / £27 Per Week
09/09 Audi A4 2.0 TDI Diesel 143 SE 5dr Multitronic Auto Estate, 88k, Black, Alloys, Digital Air Con, CD, E/Windows £8995 / £49 Per Week	07/07 Volkswagen Touran 1.6 S 5dr 7 Seater MPV, 70k, Black, Alloys, Air con, CD, Electric windows £4995 / £24 Per Week
09/09 Mercedes C250 Blue-Efficiency 2.2 CDI Diesel Elegance 84k, Grey, Black Leather, Alloys, CD, E/Windows £8695 / £46 Per Week	08/08 Mini One 1.4 3dr, 55k, Velvet Red metallic, Alloy, CD Player, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week
06/06 Jaguar S-Type 2.7 V6 Diesel SE 4dr Automatic, ONLY 45k MILES, Silver, Alloy, Black Leather, Sat nav, CD Player £7495 / £38 Per Week	13/13 Peugeot 107 1.0 Allure 14k, Black, *ZERO ROAD TAX* Alloys, Air Con, CD with Aux, E/Windows £4995 / £24 Per Week
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06/06 Audi TT 1.8 Turbo 60k, Red, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, E/Windows £5995 / £32 Per Week	08/08 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Diesel Edge 5dr [140] Automatic, 118k, Blue, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3495 / £22 Per Week
06/06 Jaguar X-Type SE 2.1 Diesel Estate ONLY 49k Miles, Red, Alloys, Cream Leather, Sat Nav, CD, E/Windows £5695 / £30 Per Week	03/03 Peugeot 206 CC 1.6 Allure Convertible 2dr, Silver, Leather interior, Alloys, Air con, CD Player, E/Windows £1595 / POA Per Week

Finance example: 2008 Mini One 1.4, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 monthly Payments of £110.53 (£25.50 per week) Total amount payable £4991.04 (Includes Document fee and Completion fee, Subject to status)

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DS returns to hot hatch sector with spicy baby

By Matt Kimberley

Unveiled at the 2016 Geneva Motor Show, the DS 3 Performance is at the hot and pointy end of the range. A new 1.6-litre turbocharged engine and a new gearbox are supported by new springs and dampers, the latest Michelin sports tyres and huggy new seats, plus, of course, all the interface revisions of the common-or-garden DS 3.

There are two body styles; hatchback and semi-convertible. The latter has an electrically sliding and folding canvas panel with a heated glass rear screen, and is just 25kg heavier than the hatchback.

Sitting lower and wider than standard on its black wheels, the Performance is a beefy and potent-looking little car. Good colour choices have been added to the palette. Even from a distance it looks more purposeful than the standard car, which is no bad thing. Just watch those rims on kerbs – they sit well proud of the tyre sidewall.

This was never a DS strong suit. The boot here is actually fine for the class, at 285 litres, but there's barely any legroom in the back. On the other hand, if you can happily pretend the rear seats aren't there, there are some useful touches in the cabin.

Spacious

There's a large, open-faced bin at the base of the centre console, a slim ledge a few inches above it and spacious door pockets. That said, pick the pace up a bit and the door pockets will be the last place you want to leave anything solid.

A Torsen limited-slip differential and a widened track, especially at the front, give the DS 3's nose a real sense of purpose and capability.

It's not the fastest hatch in the world, but it has plenty of poke for punching out of corners, with no sign of traction issues on the warm French Tarmac of the test route.

The Michelin tyres are a bit unforgiving over bumps, adding a hard edge to the much-improved damping. It stays super-composed and flat even when attacking tight bends, as long as the road is reasonably smooth, but let's just say you'll know when you hit a pothole.

The new gearbox is a vast improvement, delivering crisp shifts with minimal resistance through the crucial second-to-third action.

Powering out of corners tends to lead to a bit of squirming at the wheel because the mechanical limited-slip diff activates as the turbo kicks in, but keep your foot down and ride it out – the chassis can cope.

Talent

DS has priced its spicy new baby more or less in line with its turbocharged European rivals, and the fact it's tangibly better to drive than its Citroen-badged predecessor makes it better value.

It has a bag full of talent on all sorts of roads and you don't need three world championships under your belt to make use of it. This is a car that finally makes a strong case for itself.

Hot hatchbacks come in two tiers these days; the relatively sensible 200bhp-or-so end and the lobotomy-spec 300bhp-plus brigade.

The DS 3 Performance, as part of the former group, makes sense as a daily driver for someone looking for excitement without wanting to sacrifice their wallets to oil and insurance companies. Younger buyers will inevitably go for the looks and the power.

This car summed up in a single word: Chunky

If this car was a: boxer it would be a hard-punching lightweight with a bright future ahead of him.

TESTED

DS 3 Performance, from £20,495

Engine: 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol producing 205bhp and 221lb/ft

Transmission: Six-speed manual driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 143mph, 0-62mph in 6.5 seconds

Fuel Economy: 52.3mpg

Emissions: 125g/km

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Insignia 5 Door Sport Tourer 2.8i 325PS VXR Supersport NAV 24v V6 Turbo 4x4 with 18", 19" & 20" wheels, M6: Urban: 17.7 (16.0), Extra-urban: 35.8 (7.9), Combined: 25.9 (10.9). CO₂ emissions: 255g/km. Lowest: VAUXHALL Corsa 3 Door Hatchback 1.3 CDTi 95PS SRi VX-Line Stop/Start ecoFLEX with 15", 16" and 17" wheels, M5: Urban: 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 87g/km. *Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. *Finance provided by GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT. Finance applicants must be 18 or over. Option 1 - Pay final payment & keep the car. Option 2 - Return the car. Option 3 - Trade in against a new vehicle. †Insurance offer subject to eligibility, terms and conditions. First year insurance offer available on Corsa Limited Edition only, excluding Red and Black Editions. All drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. All policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific T&S apply. Drivers aged 18-20 will make a contribution of £99 to their premium and must agree to the fitting of a telematics box to the car. Every 3 months, your contribution will be reviewed and if you drive well, we will return part of this to you. The policy may be cancelled for excessive speeding or consistently poor driving. Only available through ingenie. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Offers available on orders or registrations between 1 April and 30 June 2016. All offers subject to availability terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only.



S-Max is taking the stylish to the max

By John Griffiths

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Style, practicality and price – in whatever order – must surely be among the main criteria for the decision to make a major investment in a new car. A decade ago Ford combined these essentials in an all-new vehicle, the S-Max, as a sleek, stylish and even sporty-looking alternative to more traditional, boxy seven-seat MPV rivals but with no less practicality.

Now the second generation S-Max is hitting the streets: not, at first sight, a huge change with a few visible changes but substantial improvements in key areas such as refinement, comfort and technology.

The test car was a Titanium trim version powered by what is likely to be the single most popular engine option, the 2.0 litre, 148bhp, turbo diesel. This middle of the range car costs £28,095 – it starts at £24,545 with Ford's 1.5 litre Eco-boost petrol engine while at the other end of the spectrum is a 178bhp model with 'Powershift' automatic transmission and all-wheel drive at a little over £33,000.

If the original S-Max was distinguished from the MPV competition by its dynamic looks, the new version is more of the same, with a longer, lower bonnet, Ford's new slimline headlight cluster and a more tapered rear end. It's styling helps to belie its size, which really becomes apparent once you step inside.

It is based on a modified Mondeo platform, which is a good place to start, and shares much of the drivetrain and technology from the much-admired mid-range saloon. But the difference is size and flexibility. The S-Max has the quality feel and refinement of a premium saloon, but with two extra seats and the ability to transform itself into a cargo carrier to rival many a small van if required.

It's a family car ideal for transporting the kids (and a couple of their friends) on the school run or for weekend activities, but it also has the ideal credentials for a flexible business car carrying valued clients to lunch or a hefty consignment of samples on a sales trip.

Flexibility is another buzzword in MPV land and we're used to the concept of flexible seating and the S-Max system is as good as it gets.

Fold

You can slide each of the three second row seats backwards or forwards, or fold them flat, with one hand. The same is true of the rear pair of seats which form part of a flat load floor: just pull a single strap and each individual seat can be raised and locked into place, and then the safety head restraints raised.

With seven people on board you have 285 litres of cargo space – about that of a mid-sized hatchback – but by juggling with the seats you can increase that to a whopping 2,020 litres, putting many a dedicated estate car to shame.

The interior has an upmarket feel: in the Titanium test car you get heated, sports-styled front seats with an exception view through the big windscreen, uninterrupted by the sloping bonnet.

You get climate control, a comprehensive LCD instrument panel which (between the tach and speedometer) allow you to display a wide range of information. That's in addition to the central touch screen control, for the satnav, audio, connectivity and adjustable vehicle settings.

Traffic sign recognition (which displays, among other things, the current posted speed limit) plus cruise control and an adjustable speed limiter also help to keep you in control. Front and rear parking sensors, lane keeping assistance, multiple airbags and electronic stability systems, and front fog lamps are also on the standard list.

The test car was fitted with the optional Titanium X pack, which sounds expensive at £2,225 but is pretty comprehensive and takes the car up a grade. It includes leather seats (power adjustable for driver and front passenger) and adaptive LED headlights including 'glare free', a system which ensures you won't dazzle oncoming drivers if you're a bit slow on the dip switch.

The upmarket feel of the cabin is matched by the ride experience. The 2.0 turbo diesel is particularly quiet, and the car's suspension system handles its weight well, with an excellent compromise between a supple, cossetting ride and reasonable dynamism.

The rear suspension is new, adapted from that of the latest Mondeo, which is tuned to improve the S-Max's road manners but equally as important to providing a softer, quieter ride for those in the rear two rows of seats.

It has inherited many of the best features of its smaller sibling, the Mondeo, when it comes to the driving experience but with the advantage of seven seats or an enormous cargo capacity when required. In short, it's a true multi-role car with the ambience of a premium saloon.

Mustang well worth wait of 50 long years

By Ian Donaldson

IT has taken half a century and produced some entirely forgettable models along the way, but the Ford Mustang is finally available in proper European trim, with right hand drive – and it's been worth the wait.

The sixth generation of a Mustang that sparked demand for a new kind of car when it first appeared in 1965 can now be yours from £30,995.

That buys a properly American-made Mustang (of course!) but without the mighty V8 engine under the bonnet that produced the thunderous soundtrack made famous by Hollywood and Steve McQueen.

Still, with 145mph on tap and zero to 62mph in 5.8 seconds it's no slowcoach. Clever electronics even generates a synthetic soundtrack that does a good impersonation of the real thing.

This Mustang-lite (a relative term with such a large machine) also uses a bit less fuel (35.3mpg officially but 27mpg on test) and looks every American inch the real deal.

When sales settle down after the initial rush, with more than 3,500 Mustangs on order or delivered in the UK to date, this 2.3 EcoBoost with four cylinders and 313bhp is expected to take around half of all sales.

But at the moment the rush to satisfy a demand that's been building for 50 years means most Mustangs come with the pukka 5.0 litre V8.

Drive one and you know why from the first gentle push of the throttle; here is a car that's effortlessly fast – with 155mph and 4.8 seconds to 62mph available without hesitation.

If the official 20.9mpg looks like a reason to shun the real deal, consider the 23mpg the car returned over the same test route as its sligher sibling.

A real world four mpg advantage will not deter anyone who relishes the genuine throb of eight big cylinders at work.

Neither will a price difference of £4,000 that makes the 2.3 EcoBoost look almost a giveaway at £30,995 but the full fat 5.0 Fastback a steal for £34,995.

Brakes

That buys a car that comes loaded with kit, from Brembo front brakes, limited slip differential, xenon headlights, nine speaker sound system, power adjustable front seats, rear view camera and a switch to tame the rear wheels on slippery roads or sharpen the car's reactions when you feel a bit sporty.

The interior is clearly built with price in mind and the plastics on show will not worry Audi, or even Kia for that matter. No complaints about the superb front seats, perfect driving position and crisply clear instruments.

There is a six-speed manual gearbox as standard, with an automatic transmission for £1,500 behind either engine, and it is important you try both before putting down your deposit. They make more of a difference to the way this new Mustang behaves than even the engine choice. The manual box links your right foot to the nerve centre of the car and makes it feel so much more connected than the slightly diffident auto. As big a difference is available for an extra £3,500 in the handsome shape of the Mustang convertible, which weighs a bit more than the fixed-roof fastback and, predictably, shimmies gently on bad roads thanks to the lack of a rigid roof.

It's powered hood vanishes neatly in seconds and there is actually a fraction more leg room in the rear than offered in the fastback. Neither cars' back seats are adult friendly though, but perfectly suited to a couple of growing nippers, who are unlikely to complain as they out-cool their school-mates. The convertible loses a little boot room but either body style has more than enough space for a fun car with a mildly serious side when there's shopping to be carried.

A fraction wider than, say, a Land Rover Discovery makes the Mustang a machine that needs some care on country roads but the further it went the narrower it seemed – always a sign of a car that keen drivers will enjoy.

Proper all-round independent suspension helps too, even if it strays on the harsh side of firm on some of our worst road surfaces.

TESTED

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KATRIANA, professional sincere lady, 48yrs, loves to have a good time. Very sensual and loves men of all ages. Please text me for a chat. Text Only Box 4148978

CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed blonde, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make his life complete again. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245

NICOLA 32yr old slim sexy single mum looking for fun times maybe more with similar open-minded uncomplicated companion. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422487

LUCY 37yrs 5ft 11ins brunette, loves nightlife, socialising, having fun, looking for fun guy who can make me laugh and promises a good time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422455

EMMA 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422443

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

BARBARA, 49, attractive green-eyed blonde, OHAC, likes travel, cinema, meals out etc, looking for genuine caring male for a 65yr for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422438

FALE, 67, young looking widow, 5ft2, green eyes, likes meals out, holidays, reading, WLTm gentman of similar age, or curvy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459

KATHY, 45, curvy blonde lady, WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc. WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

FEMALE, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and love dogs. Text only Mailbox: 4539974

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5428223

LORRAINE bored 36yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241

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CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

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SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full of life, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTm male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

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4 Pets & Animals

guns & dogs

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Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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PROPERTY

6 Property

overseas property

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7 Jobs

building & construction

BENCH JOINERS & Site Fitters required for West Midlands based Shopfitting Co. Direct employment or self employed basis. CSCS card required for site fitters. Pay negotiable dependant on experience. Contact: 01384 413999, email: totalshopfit@gmail.com

PAINTERS & DECORATORS required for new work and refurb. Own tools / transport. CSCS card & qualified. Call 07854 278360.

business & professional

EXPERIENCED SELF-EMPLOYED Mortgage/protection adviser required to join our small team based in Kingswinford. Industry qualifications essential. Own client bank preferred but some warm leads will be generated. Fit & proper checks undertaken. Send CV to chrisssy@mmfrp.co.uk.

full time - general

NML Wolverhampton Deputy Nightshift Manager

A position of a Deputy Nightshift Manager has arisen at the National Milk Laboratories Four Ashes Site. As a key member of the management team the successful candidate will be charged with the responsibility of managing staff, systems and procedures to ensure that samples are analysed and reported in accordance with established KPI's for NML's Client Base.

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Please apply in writing including a CV and covering letter explaining why this position is for you to; stephanie.j@nationalmilklabs.co.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is 8th June 2016.

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8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 316 COMPACT, 2003, blue, MoT November, 102k, alloys, full electrics. Immaculate. £1,200. 07930 374986.

CITROEN PICASSO 1.6, 04 reg, 11 months MoT, good runner, clean car, 11 months MoT. £625. 07752 698204.

FORD FOCUS 1.4, 51 reg, 78,000 miles, blue, electric windows, electric mirrors, air-con, long MoT, PAS. £675. o.n.o. 07754 557861.

FORD MONDEO Estate 2.0 LX, 02 plate, 12 months MoT, CD, very good condition, reliable, £675 ono. 07889 434584.

FREELANDER DIESEL Auto, 2002, 125,000 miles but drives like new, full MoT. £1,495 ono. 01902 682353 / 07504 131534.

LAND ROVER Freelander, T reg, petrol, 1.8, nice condition, full MoT, new cambelt, waterpump and good tyres, £650. 07889 071146.

PEUGEOT 206CC, 52 plate, full MoT, excellent condition, new wishbones £750. Ready for Summer? 01384 251328 or 07972 169554.

RENAULT MODUS Dynamique DCI, 2006 reg, s.s.t. MoT till January 2017. 35,000 miles, 1 owner, £1,000 ono. 07568 177314.

RENAULT SCENIC 53 plate, black, CD player, low mileage, 52,000, 12 months MoT. £800. 01952 852151.

RENAULT SCENIC Dynamique, 51 plate, 84,558 miles, MoT till January 2017, silver, excellent condition, £700. 07968 905654.

ROVER 45 SPIRIT 1.6, 02, 1 owner from new, only 42k miles, service history, MoT'd, silver, blue, good condition. £895. 07580 163956.

ROVER 75 TOURER 2.0 diesel, 02 reg, long MoT, 125k miles. £850 or PX Zafira or Van. 07754 121452.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2003, silver, 3rd, serviced, genuine 47k miles, full MoT, very reliable, £950 ono. 0750 830766.

VW PASSAT ESTATE 2002, petrol, manual, long MoT, 111k miles, CD player, alloys, very clean, £495. 07950 398750.

BMA Est. Here 25 Years

20 Quality Cars
From £500
Full MoT's and Warranties
07955 988517
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

cars over £1500

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We have a package to suit every budget. Packages start from as little as **£21.00 for 6 nights** Plus 6 nights free if you do not sell.
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MINI COOPER 59 plate, white, black roof, alloys, 1 elderly female owner from new, only 7,000 miles, immaculate. £5,800 ono. 07951 654749.

RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS 8V 2007, 38,900 miles, silver, electric windows, alarm, long MoT, pas, 5 door, very good condition. 1149cc, alloys. £2,295. 07879 403302.

VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN Twinport 1.6 petrol, 2006, 68,000 miles, 5-dr, blue, £1,425 ono. 07946 879532.

VOLKSWAGON FOX 1.2CC One owner, immaculate condition, MoT, FSH, £1,950. 07745 922328.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars, Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

BARGAIN VANS small / medium / large £395-£595 inc vat 12mth MoT 01902 451877 / 07944 640999

FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 2006, red, long MoT, fsh, roof bars, £1,500 o.n.o. 07913 981460.

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motorbikes

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HONDA HORNET CB600 F.T.Y. blue, 23k, MoT to July, good all round condition, £1,300 o.n.o. 07875 226361 or 01902 458994.

WE BUY BIKES immaculate, as new, garaged / non runners. Cash paid. Peter All Bikes 01902 312939 bikesallspares@gmail.com

YAMAHA VIRAGO 535, 1992, 25,000 miles, MoT Feb 2017. £850. Telephone 01384 250253.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
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A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale. **NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD** Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available **0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400**. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07803 543469, 01902 597035.

WANTED For Fiesta, X or Y reg, 4-dr. Telephone 01902 340809.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

TRAILER 4X3 With jockey wheel for sale. £140 ono. 07805 942308.

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Ring for quotes on others!

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HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES For convenience you may fax your advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
www.dudley.gov.uk
Licensing Act 2003
Notice of application for a Premises Licence (Section 17 of the Act)
Name of applicant: Mrs Jasbinder Cheema. Name & Address of premises or club: Kents Tuck Inn, 2 The Arcade, Upper Gornal, Dudley DY3 2DA.
Statement of Relevant Licensable Activities or Relevant Qualifying Club Activities which it is proposed will be carried on or from the premises.
The sale/supply of alcohol off the premises
Trading Hours: Monday to Saturday 11.00 till 23.00
Sunday 16.00 till 23.00
The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section between the hours of 8.00 am and 4.00 pm (Monday to Friday except public holidays). An online summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk.
Any representations by a Responsible Authority or Interested Party must be made in writing between: 25/5/16 and 21/6/16 to Assistant Director of Law & Governance, Licensing Services, Unit 1 Hurst Business Park, Narborough Way, Brierley Hill DY5 1UF.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

10 Personals

personal

ADULT CINEMA, The Foxy Lady 01902 490898, Gentlemen Dance Bar opening soon! 01902 405522.

LADY EARLY 60'S Young outlook, attractive, own home etc WLTm Gentleman for evenings out, holidays etc, hopefully leading to Relationship. Photos please (returned). Box Number P20363, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE 47 GSOH, would like to meet mature lady 40-55 for friendship, relationship. All replies answered. Box Number P20364, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOWER With own house and car, looking for relationship. I have everlasting love to give to that special lady. Aged 62 to early 70's. Box Number P20366, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

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Telephone: 01902 319999
Opening times: Mon to Fri, 9am-5pm
Online www.starreadertravel.com



London Theatre

Omega Holidays offer a superb portfolio of theatre breaks, managing the whole show package which includes travel, either by coach or rail, four-star accommodation and various price bands for each show. Make your own way breaks are also available to book.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night Theatre from £169⁹⁵
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on Sunday. The ticket is for the Saturday evening.

Rail inclusive breaks – Three days

Theatre Showstopper from £239⁹⁵
This popular package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night from £149⁹⁵
Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159⁹⁵
Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket (option to upgrade) and an overnight stay in an outer London hotel. For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal, whereas the Saturday Night option is for the evening performance (meal not included).

Price includes:

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ One or two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- ✓ Evening meal (with certain packages)
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Please note Star Reader Travel are unable to take bookings. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.*

DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES



Peter Rippington Award winners claim their accolades on stage with Amy Rippington, left, and Chris Brunt



Ladies Basketball Most valuable Player was Lauren Saa

Brunt centre stage for Sporting presentation

BAGGIES star Chris Brunt was the star attraction at the annual Sport club Albion presentation evening.

More than 300 eager footballers and basketball players flocked to The Hawthorns for the event.

The Northern Ireland international was on hand to distribute the awards as representatives from the girls' centre of excellence, ladies' football and basketball teams flooded the Richardson Suite for a night of celebration.

Sporting Club Albion is an integral part of The Albion Foundation and provides an opportunity for the local community to wear the Baggies' colours in a range of sports. The club has more than 250 players and 20 teams.

Brunt happily handed out awards and posed for photos with the award winners in each age group.

Individual trophies were given for the players' player, coach's player and parents' player of the year. And as is the tradition in basketball, there was a most valuable player (MVP) award.

Unbeaten

Compered by girls centre of excellence manager Louise Scott, the night featured a multitude of videos and photos highlighting an action-packed season which included the under-16 boys' basketball team remaining unbeaten all season and the Sporting Club Albion Ladies side reaching the County Cup final and progressing to the quarter-finals of the Women's FA Cup where they came up against Women's Super League side Manchester City.

Rob Lake, director of the foundation, said: "It was fantastic to see such an excited crowd at another of our end of season awards nights. The atmosphere was electric."

"We really appreciate Chris taking time out of his

SPORTING FEATURE

By Ben Pollard

"It was fantastic to see such an excited crowd at another of our end of season awards nights."

day to join us. Being on stage for the players to have their photo with him really made the night special for them. There is a great trust and respect between the coaches and I felt that was demonstrated with their speeches. I cannot speak highly enough of the group."

The night also featured the announcement that the Sporting Club Albion set up would revert to West Bromwich Albion as of next season, meaning all teams will play under the Baggies name. The evening ended with the distribution of the Peter Rippington Award.

The accolade is in honour of Peter Rippington, who died in 2012. A long-standing supporter of all levels of football, he was teacher at Alvechurch School, and the father of former Club Albion player Amy. Mr Rippington was renowned for being loyal, selfless, and hard working in every aspect of his life, and the recipient of this award shares such traits.

The award is given to the player who, in the eyes of the ladies' coaching team and senior playing staff, has represented the SCA badge with the same loyalty and dedication that Mr Rippington represented his family, his school and his community.

This year, the award was dedicated to four Sporting Club Albion Ladies players – Kelly Darby, Hazzana

Parnell, Eleanor Clarke and Billie Haynes – who have lost relatives throughout the season. The awards for Sporting Club Albion Ladies were not distributed due to the team still having a number of games remaining as they battle for the league title and the opportunity to be promoted to the Women's Super League.

Awards were: Girls' Centre of Excellence, football Under-11s - Coach's Player of the Year: Ellie McFarlane; Players' Player of the Year: Alannah Meynell; Parents' Player of the Year: Alannah Meynell.

Under-13s - Coach's Player: Anna Craig; Players' Player: Anna Bebb; Parents' Player: Harmonie Cotterell.

Under-15s - Coach's Player: Charlie Whitehouse; Players' Player: Freya Owens; Parents' Player: Katie Clarke.

Under-17s - Coach's Player: Shannon Stamps; Players' Player: Lucy Finch; Parents' Player: Lucy Finch.

Basketball, Under-16 Boys - Coach's Player of the Year: Adam Tiley; Player's Player of the Year: Sulyman Suwareh; Boys Most Valuable Player: Connor Lynch.

Under-18 Girls - Coach's Player: Oliwia Zegel; Players' Player: Lauren Saa; Girls Most Valuable Player: Lauren Saa; Boys - Coach's Player: Taron-deep Nijjar; Players' Player: Jrae Lue; Boys Most Valuable Player: Encosee Richards.

Under-19 Boys - Coach's Player: Matej Dudak; Players' Player: Jamal Brown; Boys Most Valuable Player: Jamal Brown.

Mens - Coach's Player of the Year: Dale Deakin and Dinais Tobi-Lara; Players' Player: Ramone Joseph; Most Valuable Player: Dailian Mason.

Women's - Coach's Player: Abby Watson; Players' Player: Lauren Saa; Most Valuable Player: Fatosh Tozaki.

Peter Rippington Award: Kelly Darby, Hazzana Parnell, Eleanor Clarke, Billie Haynes.



Ellie McFarlane was named the under-11s Coach's Player of the Year

Final whistle



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EVERY MONDAY

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A real football read for real football fans.

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EXPERIENCED SALES TEAM ON 01902 31 31 31



Stour pay as catches are dropped

Stourbridge 185-9 lost to Wombourne (188-8) by two wickets

SIX matches into the season and Stourbridge 1st XI find themselves at the bottom of the Birmingham League Division Two and still without a win.

Their latest defeat against local rivals Wombourne was a close fought match that could have turned out different had four crucial catches been held.

Home side skipper Ian Walker who put Stour in was rewarded with two quick wickets, losing Alex Bingham and Mikesh Jivan-Patel in the first over and without score.

Fifteen year old Zain Ul Hassan and James Winders put on 58. Winders smashed 33 off 31 balls. Once Ul Hassan was out for 35, skipper Matt Bradley and Josh Banks consolidated Stour's position with a 77 stand. When Bradley was out Stour's score was 160-5 off 24 overs. Stour's tail managed just 17 more runs. Banks was bowled by Adam Quiney for 33, giving him 4-37 off 10 overs.

Wombourne's opening pair Karl Quiney and Waqas Ahmed blasted 68 runs off 60 balls.

The runaway partnership was cut short by Ul Hassan being Quiney caught for 30 in the slips by Banks, the first of four brilliant catches by him. Seventeen runs later the belligerent Ahmed was caught off Ul Hassan by Banks for 54 off 37 with six 4s and three 6s.

Ahmed's wicket on 85 was followed immediately by a direct hit run out by Alex Bingham of Jack Lewis for a duck.

Stour's below-par total started to look imposing as Wombourne's innings collapsed to 98-4 in the 14th over and then 101-5 after 20 and 112-6.

Number seven Ryan Quiney and Adam Quiney put on 63 off 66 balls. But a series of catches went down to hand over the opposition 20 points.

Glassboys stalwart Broadhurst claims hat-trick of awards

STOURBRIDGE stalwart Leon Broadhurst picked up a hat-trick of awards at the Glassboys' end of season presentation evening.

The 32-year old midfielder, who joined Stourbridge in 2003, chalked up his 600th appearance for the club in February. He received the Manager's Player of the Year from boss Gary Hackett, the Supporters' Man of the Match award (in memory of Steve Hickman) and the coveted Players' Player of the Year.

The Board of Directors Player of the Year, presented in memory of Alan Pitt, was awarded to club captain Stuart Pierpoint, while Brian Smikle was named the Supporters' Player of the Year and the top goalscorer trophy was presented to Karl Hawley.

Stourbridge's first pre-season friendly will be at Leamington on Saturday, July 9 at 3pm. The following weekend they make the short trip to Stourport Swifts before taking on Kidderminster Harriers in the first round of the Worcestershire Senior Cup on July 18, at 7.45pm.

Goalkeeper Charlie Price has moved to Alvechurch.

Youngsters can net free tennis



Leon Smith, second left, with Kieran Beattie, Andy Griffin and Craig Unitt from SLT

YOUNG tennis enthusiasts can take advantage of free coaching this summer, thanks to the success of Great Britain's Davis Cup team.

Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) has been awarded funding to deliver a six-week block of free mini tennis coaching for five-to-eight-year-olds at Tipton Sports Academy, in Wednesbury Oak Road.

Sessions start next Wednesday, June 8, from 4-5pm and run until July 13, as well as on Saturdays from June 11 to July 16, from 9-10am.

This follows three tennis coaches, Kieran Beattie, aged 28, from Sedgley, Andy Griffin, 29, and

Tennis

Craig Unitt, 37, both from Tipton, being trained up by the GB Davis Cup captain Leon Smith.

SLT Sports Development Officer, Lee Marks said: "This is an amazing project to get more young people playing tennis."

To book, visit clubspark.lta.org.uk and select 'Tennis for Kids' and search for 'Tipton, Sandwell'. Anyone unable to access one of the courses this time round can 0121 506 4980 or email lee.marks@slt-leisure.co.uk

Struggling riders given Max backing

SKIPPER Max Clegg is backing Cradley's struggling riders to battle through their confidence crisis.

The Heathens remain unbeaten in their home meetings at Wolverhampton this season but are clearly struggling on their travels.

They were well beaten at Eastbourne on Saturday before Clegg teamed up with Ash Morris to secure a draw at Buxton in the Knockout Cup.

They are clear favourites to progress when the sides meet again in the return leg at Monmore on June 13.

Said Clegg: "We've got some riders struggling, but they are riding for Cradley for a reason and I'm sure they'll come good."

"They have the ability, it's just a case of them getting the self-belief and confidence to start scoring more points."

"We're trying to help them as much as we can and hopefully things will click for everyone and we'll improve even more as a team."

"It's been a decent start to the season for us, especially at home, but I think there is definitely a lot more to come from us."

Meanwhile Cradley legend Simon Cross is heading back to the town to meet his fans next month.

Cross, who piled up more than 5,000 points for the club in the Dudley Wood era, will be on stage at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Monday June 20.

A bumper turnout is expected to welcome the former England Test star who now lives in France.

He said: "I'm looking forward to meeting the Cradley fans again, Cradley was always my home during my career and it will be nice to be back in the town."

Admission is £6 on the door or £5 for Heathens season ticket holders and trust members.

Harriers visit Grove for pre-season clash

HALESOWEN Town have announced their pre-season fixtures, including one with Kidderminster Harriers.

The Yeltz will start with a trip to boss John Hill's former club, Tipton Town on Saturday, July 9, and will then visit Sporting Khalsa on July 19, AFC Wulfrunians on July 23, and Alvechurch on July 26.

Three matches at The Grove will follow, starting off against John Eustace's Harriers on July 29.

The last two home friendlies will be with Redditch United on August 2, and Gresley on August 6, with the new season getting under way on August 13.

★★★

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SWIMMERS FLY FLAG FOR CLUB

YOUNG Black Country stars from one of the West Midlands' top swimming clubs are aiming for success in the upcoming British Nationals.

Flying the flag for the Black Country are Rowley Regis' Chloe Finch and Ashley Markhall and Brierley Hill's Brittany Horton.

City of Birmingham Swimming Club elite coach Carl Grosvenor has high hopes of the youngsters' success at Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

"There have just been a good crop of kids at the same age come through," Grosvenor said.

"They're doing well at the moment, we've had lots of international representatives for Great Britain and England. We've had them enter and win medals at the Youth Olympics, the Commonwealth Youth Games, the World Junior Championships and the European Games.

"That's all at junior level," he added. "As a club we went nine years without someone representing us in the seniors but Luke Davies raced in the current European Championships in London."

Profile

Grosvenor has been a member of the club for 10 years and head coach for six. He is joined by Adam Taylor and Chris Littler.

Former Stourbridge Swimming Club member Horton, along with clubmate Finch and other City of Birmingham stars headed to Glasgow for the Rio Olympic qualifiers, a high-profile event that also doubled-up as a European Junior Championships qualifier.

Horton touched home in third place in her women's open 100m backstroke heat. But the 17-year-old came seventh from a field of eight in the final. The King Edward's School student swam a solid heat in the 200m back, finishing first but finished sixth in the final.

In the women's open 400m freestyle heat, ex-Halesowen Swimming Club star Finch missed out on a spot in the final after qualifying third.

But while Markhall, Finch and Horton can look ahead positively to August's ASA National Championships, the latter has found time to fit in a trip across the continent to represent GB in the Mare Nostrum series in Barcelona.



Brierley Hill's Brittany Horton is targeting success Chloe Finch training with the City of Birmingham



Sidecar team's weekend of frustration

A BLACK COUNTRY sidecar team has vowed to put a frustrating weekend of racing behind them before they travel to Scotland for the next round.

Martin Kirk and passenger Ben Hughes from the Stourbridge-based MK Racing team, say they feel confident their British Sidecar campaign can improve after engine failure

led to disaster at Brands Hatch. The team sits 16th in the championship. The next round is at Knockhill, from June 24-26.

But the break should give the team plenty of time to get the sidecar properly prepared after failing to make the start line for the second race at Brands Hatch during round two.

Disaster struck after the

sighting lap on race one as the engine destroyed itself, ending their challenge before it had even begun.

Kirk said: "It was a major blow and we were bitterly disappointed after a strong start."

"We thought we had found the issue but weren't able to rectify it and fit the spare engine for Sunday's race."

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